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Economic Commission for Europe**Committee on Housing and Land Management****Seventy-eighth session**

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Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

Review of the implementation of the programme of work 2016-2017**The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other
global agreements in the ECE Region – Implications to
the work of the Committee****Note by the Secretariat**

1. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in 2016 and other key international agreements established new policy frameworks for future activities on sustainable housing and urban development at all levels. Above all, an integrated and coordinated approach at the global, regional, national, subnational and sub-regional levels, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, is required for meeting the commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and others.
2. The 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and other key policy documents together with the reform agenda by the Secretary General from June 2017 on the repositioning of the UN development system have direct implications for the future work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management.
3. The Committee is invited to take note of this document as a basis for a discussion on the need for a guidance document for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and other recent relevant international agreements. The Committee could consider requesting the Bureau to draft this guidance document for adoption by the Committee at its seventy-ninth session.

I. Introduction

1. In the last few years, governments adopted at the global and regional level several milestone agreements that have direct implications to the work of this Committee. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹, the New Urban Agenda² along with other key agreements, highlight the need for policy reviews at the global, regional and national levels, taking into account, in particular, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their achievement. Such policy changes will require stronger horizontal and vertical cooperation among governments and all relevant stakeholders, and the implementation of innovative financing mechanisms.
2. In support of the need to integrate the aims of Agenda 2030 in its work, the United Nations system initiated a review of its development programme and the United Nations Secretary General published the document “Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: ensuring a better future for all”³ in June 2017. This document marked the beginning of a change process of the UN development system. Further steps will be required for improving the accountability and oversight of the UN by member States and increasing management efficiency.
3. The objective of this information document is to provide an overview of the key agreements which have implications for policy frameworks currently in place at global, regional, national, subregional and local levels. The Committee is invited to consider this document in order to inform the future work of the Committee, to support its alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and other key agreements, and the reform agenda on the repositioning of the UN development system by the Secretary General.

II. Key global and regional agreements

A. UN global agreements

4. **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:** The United Nations General Assembly adopted in September 2015 the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. It represents an ambitious, transformative global framework for sustainable social, economic and environmental development with the primary commitment of “not leaving anyone behind”. Achieving the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals is highly dependent on the joint efforts by governments and stakeholders working at national, global, regional and local levels, including especially private sector, civil society and local communities. The 2030 Agenda stresses the importance of an integrated approach to addressing diverse challenges and the importance of cooperation between and within countries.
5. Sustainable urban development is the focus of SDG 11 – “Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. Work on achieving SDG 11 is crucial for implementing the 2030 Agenda since more than half of the planet’s inhabitants live in cities and this continues to grow. Further, given the interconnectedness of the SDGs, most of them are directly relevant to the work of the Committee due to the integrated nature of housing and urban development challenges (see Annex 1).

¹ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E.

² <http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/>

³ <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/qcpr/sg-report-on-unds-qcpr-june-2017.pdf>.

6. **New Urban Agenda (NUA)⁴**: The Habitat III Conference in October 2016 was the first of the UN global conferences discussing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Conference approved the NUA, which embodies a major shift in UN policy as it emphasizes the direct link between urbanization and sustainable development. The NUA addresses principles for the planning, construction, development, management, and improvement of urban areas along its five main pillars of implementation: national urban policies, urban legislation and regulations, urban planning and design, local economy and municipal finance, and local implementation.
7. **Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing Development⁵**: The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted in July 2015 is a holistic and forward-looking framework that aims at further strengthening financing for sustainable development and the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.
8. **SENDAI framework for Disaster and Risk Reduction 2015-2030⁶**: The SendaiFramework was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015 and strives to tackle the issue of disaster and risk reduction. Building on the Hyogo Framework for Action, the SENDAI framework focuses on improving livelihoods and health in all of its dimensions through “the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience”. Effective disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development and tackles underlying disaster risk drivers, such as poverty and inequality, climate change and variability, unplanned and rapid urbanization and poor land management.
9. **Paris Agreement on Climate Change⁷**: The Paris Agreement was elaborated within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was adopted in December 2015 during the 21st Conference of the Parties. For the first time all nations undertook ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so. As such, the Agreement charts a new course in the global climate effort. Ensuring that housing and cities are resilient to climate change and extreme weather conditions is critical for sustainable urban development.
10. **Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024⁸**: The Vienna Programme of Action adopted in 2014 calls for implementation of six priorities namely, fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent, and expeditious manner. This is of particular importance for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

⁴ <http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English.pdf>

⁵ http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

⁶ http://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

⁷ http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf

⁸ <http://unohrrls.org/custom-content/uploads/2017/07/Vienna-booklet-ENGLISH-1.pdf>

B. Regional documents

11. **Urban Agenda for the EU⁹**: The European Union's 28 member countries adopted the Urban Agenda for the EU in May 2016. For the EU, urban development is a key issue: more than 70% of EU citizens live in cities where, at the same time, approximately 85% of the GDP of the EU is generated. The Urban Agenda for the EU is a way to enable cities in Europe to better influence related EU legislation, to focus funding instruments through different funds into cities and to share experience of urban authorities across Europe. The core of the Urban Agenda for the EU is development of partnerships in 12 thematic areas in total. These partnerships enable cities, countries, EU institutions and other stakeholders, such as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to work together on an equal basis and to look for and find common ways to improve urban areas in the EU. The partnerships were launched in the following areas: Integration of migrants and refugees, air quality, urban poverty, housing, circular economy, digital transformation, urban mobility, job opportunities and skills in local economy, adaptation to climate change, energy transformation, sustainable land use and solutions based on nature principles, and innovative and responsible public procurement. The partnerships generate an important knowledge base for the future work of the EU member countries to address urban development challenges.
12. **Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing¹⁰**: The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing is 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. It was endorsed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on 16 April 2015. The Charter established a thematic framework for the regional cooperation on housing in the ECE Region.

All the above agreements are critically important for the work of the Committee. The next section will discuss the policy recommendations from these key agreements to support their implementation globally as well as and regionally.

III. Recommendations from the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and the reform agenda of the Secretary General to be considered in the future work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management

13. Moving forward, four critical policy principles have been identified as critical for realizing the sustainable development goals: an enhanced horizontal and vertical cooperation, more evidence based policy, increased management efficiency and moving from funding to financing.

A. Horizontal and vertical cooperation

- a. *The agreements highlight the vital importance of strong links between the global and national, regional and sub-regional levels (vertical cooperation).*

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/policy/themes/urban-development/agenda/pact-of-amsterdam.pdf

¹⁰ https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/UNECE_Charter_EN.pdf.

14. The agreements reaffirm a global commitment to sustainable urban development as a critical step for achieving sustainable development in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant actors and stakeholders. The Regional Economic Commissions' role is presented as a key element to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹¹ (see articles 82 of the New Urban Agenda¹², articles 86 and 87 of the SG report, Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: ensuring a better future for all¹³, article 87 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda¹⁴, and article 12 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030¹⁵).

b. The achievement of the SDGs requires a strengthened intergovernmental cooperation, UN interagency coordination, multi-stakeholder partnerships and cross-sectoral collaboration (horizontal cooperation).

15. The horizontal cooperation needs to be improved between countries. This principle of solidarity is reaffirmed in the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement 2015¹⁶, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on financing development and others. Partnerships will facilitate an intensive global engagement bringing together governments in support of implementation of all sustainable development goals and targets.
16. Advanced UN interagency coordination can enhance the accountability of the United Nations development system and the impartiality, coherence and effectiveness of the Organization's sustainable development activities. Revamped interagency planning, coordination and accountability mechanisms should allow the system to identify areas in which it could cover gaps by pooling expertise and assets across its entities, or cases where the United Nations may be better positioned to support governments. According to the reform agenda, the Deputy Secretary General will act as the facilitator of integration and system-wide coherence and a convener of global-level initiatives for sustainable development, as well as a neutral broker in interagency processes.
17. In order to reinforce the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, an integrated approach must be encouraged. Multi-stakeholder partnerships and the resources, knowledge and resourcefulness of the private sector, civil society, the scientific community, academia, philanthropy and foundations, parliaments, local authorities, volunteers and other stakeholders will be important to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complement the efforts of governments, and support the achievement of the sustainable development goals. By consulting multiple actors from diverse fields related to the concerns and goals set up in the 2030 Agenda, the global vision of this later would be fully integrated to policies and its impact would be of greater importance. The Committee should identify considerable synergies and cross-cutting areas that build on these synergies so that implementation of one will contribute to the progress of others. It shall pay a special attention to multi-stakeholder partnerships between the private sector, the public sector and the civil society in order to create synergies.

¹¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/rio20/futurewewant>

¹² <http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/>

¹³ <http://undocs.org/A/72/124>

¹⁴ http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

¹⁵ http://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

¹⁶ http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php

B. Data collection, evidence based policy

18. Data collection remains a key challenge. As the Secretary General underlines in article 39 of the SG's report, *Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: ensuring a better future for all*¹⁷, “the UN development system must improve in its ability to manage collected data and turn it into insights, thus better informing accountability to its partners for the system's results in implementation at country level”. Baseline data for several of the targets remains unavailable, and the Secretary General calls for increased support for strengthening data collection and capacity building in Member States, and to develop national and global baselines where they do not yet exist. Addressing this gap in data collection is crucial to better inform the measurement of progress, in particular for those targets which do not have clear numerical targets. As data monitoring has a strong role to play in achieving, monitoring and reviewing the SDGs, the development system must review and harmonize its data management in order to better tailor it to the specific needs of Member States.

C. Management efficiency

19. In order for these agendas to be implemented effectively institutional frameworks must reduce fragmentation and overlaps and must be efficient and transparent while reinforcing coordination and cooperation. This is clearly stated in article 76 the 2030 Agenda and article 15 of the New Urban Agenda.
20. The reform agenda will have direct implications to the work of the Committee and should be considered an important contribution to an effective achievement of SDGs. The focus has to be on the delivery of the programme. Consequently, administrative procedures must be simplified in order to maximize the impact and facilitate the implementation of the agenda. Within the United Nations, several entities may work on SDGs related issues at the same time but do not manage the necessary efficiency and coordination due to the administrative burden. These problems are likely to hamper the work of the UN on the SDGs unless it achieves efficient and effective coordination among the different UN entities. In the Secretary General's own words, “the United Nations could not – and should not – be doing everything, everywhere” (article 52 of the Secretary General's report¹⁸). The Secretary General upholds that revamped interagency planning, coordination and accountability mechanisms should allow the system to identify areas in which it could cover gaps by pooling expertise and assets across entities. The reform agenda will have direct implications to the work of the Committee and should be considered an important contribution to an effective achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
21. Furthermore, accountability and transparency of the United Nations are top priorities of the Secretary General. His report offers a number of proposals to enhance the tools and oversight by Member States in more effectively reporting on and accounting for system-wide results. The development system review will evolve over the remainder of 2017, culminating in a second report in December, which will further elaborate on this vision and deliver on the remaining mandates of General Assembly resolution 71/243.

¹⁷ <http://undocs.org/A/72/124>

¹⁸ <http://undocs.org/A/72/124>

D. Moving from funding to financing

22. To ensure that SDGs are fully implemented, the Committee should encourage a different mechanisms, as appropriate, in development financing. Through the 2030 Agenda, member States should develop and implement a holistic approach to the SDGs, including through innovative financing mechanisms. Promoting innovative financing mechanisms will allow countries to better prevent and manage risks and develop mitigation plans. The 2030 Agenda¹⁹ recognizes, in its article 86, that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on financing development is the backbone document for the overhaul of financing mechanisms. As mentioned in article 131²⁰ of the AAAA, the UN should not do everything, everywhere. Thus, the UN should not take part in all financing projects, but instead should focus on the “follow-up” process, that is to say to assess progress, identify obstacles and challenges to the implementation of the financing for development outcomes. Indeed, a diligent and lasting “follow up” process is necessary to the good development of financing mechanisms.
23. The principle of solidarity between Member States is reaffirmed by paragraph 4 of SDG 17 in the 2030 Agenda and in article 50 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing development, which says: “International public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources. The ambitious agenda puts significant demands on public budgets and capacities, which requires scaled-up and more effective international support, including both concessional and non-concessional financing.” Furthermore, in the AAAA, article 75, Member States “underline that regional investments in key priority sectors require the expansion of new financing mechanisms, and call upon multilateral and regional development finance institutions to support regional and sub-regional organizations and programmes.”

IV. The Committee’s activities and consideration of the recommendations from key agreements

24. The adoption of multiple cornerstone agreements, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing Development, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster and Risk Reduction 2015-2030, in the last few years is setting a new direction for the work of the Committee. The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development provides a framework for all ongoing and future activities of the Committee. The Committee should consider the other above-mentioned agreements, and incorporating them in their activities.
25. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development in 2015 first steps have been made by member States towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee has been working for some time on capacity-building activities in their programme of work that are related to assisting member States in to reach the targets of the 2030 Agenda (see Annex 1) as they seek to ensure sustainable urban development and access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all.

¹⁹<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>


²⁰ http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf


26. The CHLM approved in its plenary meeting in December 2016 a framework for the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, including recommendations for the establishment of the Charter Centres for implementation of the Charter in ECE member States. The Centres perform activities such as an active dissemination of information on the Charter and its principles, advisory services, capacity building at all levels, networking with cities, regions and other stakeholders, etc. So far, two centres have been established in Estonia and Albania and several other countries reported in the course of 2017 about their intentions to establish such centres.
27. Country Profiles and City Profiles assist governments to improve the performance of their housing, urban development and land management sectors. Capacity-building projects support urban planning especially in countries in transition through the cooperation between cities and national governments and the private sector, and further develop inter-sectoral collaboration among different departments of city governments.



V. Conclusions



28. Moving forward, a critical step for realizing the sustainable development goals and other goals under these recent international agreements, is an integrated and coordinated approach at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. However, achieving implementation at all levels is a challenge for many countries in the ECE region.
29. The secretariat proposes that a guidance document might be beneficial to help provide direction for the future activities of the Committee and thus integrate the above-mentioned agreements holistically in its activities with the 2030 Agenda as the overarching framework. The content of this information note, along with the Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development, could be used as the basis of the discussion as the Committee considers the potential benefits of developing a guidance document to provide direction for its future work in the areas of sustainable housing, urban development, and land administration and management in the ECE region.
30. The Committee is therefore invited to consider requesting the Bureau to draft the proposed guidance document, with the support of the secretariat.


Annex 1. Involvement of the Committee on Housing and Land Administration in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals



SDGs	Targets	Involvement of the Committee on Housing and Land Management	Practical activities
 <p>Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target 1.4: “By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular, the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance”. - Target 1.5: “By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters”. 	<p>Available and affordable housing is a fundamental prerequisite for quality of life and for life of families. The work of the Committee focuses on the social dimension of sustainable housing to address housing affordability, social housing and low-cost housing.</p>	<p>Committee organizes regular national and regional capacity building workshops on affordable housing. In April 2015, ECE member States endorsed the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, which promotes social housing as part of its Social inclusion and participation principle. The establishment of Charter Centres in cities of the region such as Tirana, Prague and Tallinn promotes the principles and ensure the access to decent housing in the ECE region.</p> <p>In October 2015, CHLM published a study Social Housing in the ECE region. Models, Trends and Challenges. This study examines the current trends, challenges and social housing models in the ECE region. It provides recommendations for possible future activities based on an extensive literature review of housing issues.</p> <p>In October 2013, Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the ECE region for the period 2014-2020 was adopted which includes a social dimension part and defines targets and objectives to improve the access for all to housing.</p> <p>In December 2006, ECE Guidelines on Social Housing: Principles and Examples were formulated to enable policymakers to assess the various policy</p>

			<p>options that are available for the provision of social housing. The Guidelines address the institutional, legal and economic frameworks for social housing and experience with social housing design. It analyses the role of social housing policies for society.</p> <p>The Country Profiles published since 1996 address the issue of social and affordable housing as part of the review of the Housing sector.</p>
 <p>Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p>	<p>- Target 3.d: “Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks”.</p>	<p>Housing conditions have a direct effect on the physical and mental health of the population. Adequate steps can improve environmental and energy performance of dwellings, which contribute to combating energy poverty, improving residents’ quality of life and reducing health problems.</p> <p>Sustainable urban planning and housing construction have to follow all standards and principles of healthy use of residential buildings and public spaces around them.</p>	<p>The Committee encourages adequate and healthy living through the promotion of good housing design, proper housing maintenance and retrofitting of buildings through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and the Ministerial Declaration, studies and workshops • Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management • Smart sustainable city profiles



 <p>Goal 5 – Achieve equality and empower all women and girls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target 5.1: “Eliminate all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere”. - Target 5.a: “Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws”. 	<p>The needs of women and men with regard to the urban services, amenities and public spaces, housing environment should be taken into account in creating of master plans as well of housing construction development projects.</p> <p>The Committee promotes gender responsive urban planning, and support adequate awareness of the different everyday needs of women and men in relation to life phases, life realities, cultural and social backgrounds.</p> <p>The Committee also supports security of tenure of housing and land for women to ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to ownership and control over land and other forms of property.</p>	<p>Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management Guidelines address gender issues in property and land ownership extensively.</p>
 <p>Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target 6.2: “By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations”. - Target 6.b: “Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving 	<p>Water and sanitation management is an integral part of all urban and housing strategies and policies. However, poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, especially those living in substandard and informal settlements, often lack access to water and sanitation. Hence, the Committee encourages cities to develop strategies that improve access to basic utilities and services, including safe drinking water and sanitation.</p>	<p>Analysis is conducted through Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management and city profiles.</p>



	water and sanitation management”.		
 <p>Goal 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target 7.1: “By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services”. - Target 7.3: “By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency”. - Target 7.b: “By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all (...) in accordance with their respective programmes of support”. 	<p>The Committee works to improve energy efficiency in buildings and to facilitate the maintenance, management and refurbishment of the existing housing stock.</p>	<p>The Committee supports the implementation of energy efficient standards through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation of regional workshops to strengthen national capacities • Establishment of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (jointly with Committee on Sustainable Energy) • Conducting studies on mapping energy efficiency standards in the region; mapping the existing technologies to enhance energy efficiency in buildings • Establishing a database of experts on energy efficiency standards • Supporting exchange of best practices, experiences of applying standards and technologies through regional and national meetings.
 <p>Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target 8.2: “Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries”. 	<p>The Committee supports policies that stimulate employment through investments in the green economy and innovation in technology in the field of housing and urban planning.</p> <p>The Committee works on financing mechanisms for smart sustainable cities projects to enhance the competitiveness, attractiveness and sustainable economic growth at the local level.</p>	


 <p>Goal 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</p>	<p>- Target 9.1: “Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all”.</p>	<p>Promoting innovations in construction industry, smart solutions for energy efficient housing construction and refurbishment is key to building resilient infrastructure.</p> <p>The Committee provides support for national as well as local investments in innovation and research, with particular attention to energy savings, social innovation, green, compact, inclusive and smart cities, can contribute to reach this goal and improve the level of quality of infrastructure. ECE and ITU launched their global initiative United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC).</p>	<p>Through its United Smart Cities project, the Committee promotes the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Internet of Things at local level to enhance inclusiveness and participation, to support efficiency of urban operations and to improve the quality of life of cities’ dwellers.</p> <p>The Committee works to harmonize building standards and building regulations in the ECE region and to promote knowledge transfer and good practices sharing at the national and local level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in collaboration with the Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) and the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) to develop stronger housing real estate markets. • Analysis on resilient infrastructures through the Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management at national level <p>Assessment of infrastructure and innovation potential at local level through smart sustainable city profiles.</p>
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 <p>Goal 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target 10.3: “Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard”. 	<p>Growing inequality and the persistence of multiple dimensions of poverty, including the rising number of slum and informal-settlement dwellers, are affecting both developed and developing countries.</p> <p>The Committee’s activities promote policies based on equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination. The Committee recognises that spatial organization, accessibility and design of urban space, as well as the infrastructure and the basic services provision, together with development policies, can promote social cohesion, equality and inclusion.</p>	<p>Country Profiles on housing and land management series is a flagship product of the Committee, which is an important tool to analyze countries’ housing and land management policies, strategies, institutional and financial frameworks and to compare the progress made internationally. Country Profiles are conducted in solidarity on the request of Member States and worked out by independent international experts.</p>
 <p>Goal 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target 11.1: “By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums”. - Target 11.3: “By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries”. 	<p>By 2050, the world’s urban population is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the twenty-first century’s most transformative trends.</p> <p>The United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) is an initiative supported by 16 UN agencies, who along with relevant stakeholders have accepted the challenge to create smarter and more sustainable cities globally. The initiative is a global platform for smart cities stakeholders, which advocates for public policies to</p>	<p>The Committee promotes decent, adequate, affordable and sustainable housing, transparent land administration through its support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, New Urban Agenda, Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing Geneva, Strategy 2014-2020, and the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development.</p> <p>The Committee promotes integrated urban planning through the implementation of International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, UNDA capacity building projects, support to the</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target 11.4: “Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”. - Target 11.7: “By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities”. - Target 11.b: “By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels”. - Target 11.c: “Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials”. 	<p>encourage the use of ICT to facilitate the transition to smart sustainable cities. It develops studies and training material. The most important product developed so far are the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs⁹ for Smart Sustainable Cities), which support cities to implement the SDGs at the local level.</p>	<p>governments work on preparation and implementation of relevant policies and National Action Plans on Sustainable Housing, Urban Development and Land Management.</p> <p>The Committee and its Working Party on Land Administration promote transparent and efficient land administration and management through their regular sessions and workshops.</p> <p>The Real Estate Market Advisory Group assists the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Working Party on Land Administration to develop stronger housing real estate markets through its workshops, studies on energy efficient housing; affordable and social housing; housing finance; property valuation and registration; land markets and land administration.</p> <p>The Committee’s flagship product, Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management, is an important tool to analyse countries’ housing, urban development and land management policies, strategies, institutional and financial frameworks and to assess the progress at the international level.</p> <p>The United Smart Cities project (USC) is a multi-stakeholder project, which aims at addressing the major urban issues in medium-sized cities in countries with economies in transition in the ECE region and implement the SDGs at the local level. Its main outputs include the Smart Sustainable Cities Profiles (studies on the performances of cities with recommendations for action) and Cities Action Plans.</p>
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			Support of the network of Geneva UN Charter Centres (Albania, the United Kingdom, Estonia)
 <p>Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<p>- Target 12.2: “By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources”.</p>	<p>The Committee works also to harmonize building standards and building regulations in the ECE region The Committee’s activities promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by implementing cost effective energy efficient buildings, the enhancement of water services infrastructure and waste management, and strengthening protection of natural resources.</p>	<p>The Committee works also to harmonize building standards and building regulations in the ECE region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint workshops on climate change and DRR with ECE divisions (Industrial Accidents, Protocol on Water and Health).
 <p>Goal 13 – Take urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	<p>- Target 13.1: “Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries”.</p> <p>- Target 13.2: “Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning”.</p>	<p>The international standards in housing and development, promoted by the Committee, are driving action towards resilient, connected, spatially- and socially-integrated cities. This is done in an equitable partnership with rural areas for the overall achievement of sustainable development.</p> <p>The Committee promotes spatial planning and reviewing and adapting building regulations to better respond to seismicity and the effects of climate change and climate variability.</p>	<p>The Committee supports innovation and the use of affordable and new technologies to facilitate the transition to a low-carbon, energy-efficient and more sustainable society through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, • Adoption of the Geneva UN Charter • Preparation of Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management • Preparation of Smart Sustainable City Profiles • Joint workshops on climate change and DRR with ECE divisions (Industrial Accidents, Protocol on Water and Health) • Capacity building regional and national workshops in the ECE region

			The Committee supports the effort on climate change adaptation and mitigation by working on energy efficiency in buildings
 <p>Goal 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>	<p>- Target 15.6: “Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed”.</p>	<p>Rapid urbanization and climate change motivates the development of urban green infrastructure as a planning strategy to support the well-being of urban people and ecosystems, while parallel adapting cities to climate change.</p> <p>The Committee supports member States to strengthen the sustainable management of their resources, including land, water, energy, forests and food, with particular attention to environmentally sound management via integrated urban planning that considers urban-rural linkages and disaster mitigation plans.</p>	
 <p>Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and</p>		<p>Easy, clear and transparent procedures, as well as appropriate institutions can ensure efficient housing and land markets. The Committee supports ECE Member States to establish effective, clear and transparent regulations and procedures, as well as appropriate institutions for issuing building permits, with the objective of helping ensure fairness and non-discrimination and fighting corruption in the housing sector.</p>	<p>The Committee’s activities include land administration projects, since data on land and buildings are vital for securing ownership rights and property taxation, which are both prerequisites for efficient planning and investment. It can also provide mechanisms that limit corruption, by providing transparent systems on tenure, land and buildings use and property transfers.</p>

<p>inclusive institutions at all levels</p>			
<p> Goal 17 – Strengthen the means of implementations and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</p>		<p>Realization of the commitments set out in the UN documents requires enabling policy frameworks at the national, subnational and local levels, integrated by participatory planning and management of urban spatial development and effective means of implementation, complemented by international cooperation as well as efforts in capacity development, including the sharing of best practices, policies and programmes among governments at all levels.</p> <p>The implementation of these goals means a wide range of tool, including access to science, technology and innovation and enhanced knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms. Other factors include the capacity development and mobilization of financial resources, commitment of developed and developing countries and availability of traditional and innovative sources at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, along with enhanced international cooperation and partnerships among governments at all levels, the private sector, and civil society.</p>	

		<p>The Committee supports the exchange of information and international cooperation between member States by harmonizing of methodologies and definitions in the area of housing and land management, as well as through supporting the development of common terms, language definitions and standards.</p>	
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