


Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management
Eightieth session

Geneva, 2-4 October 2019

**Report of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing
and Land Management on its eightieth session**
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I. Introduction

1. The Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management held its eightieth session in Geneva from 2 to 4 October 2019.

II. Attendance

2. Representatives of the following ECE countries participated: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the Republic of North Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uzbekistan.

3. Representative of Argentina also attended the meeting.

4. Representatives of the following United Nations programmes and specialized agencies attended: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

5. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended: Secretariat-General of the European Commission, Council of Europe Development Bank, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Union for the Mediterranean and the World Economic Forum (WEF).

6. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations attended: "Our Right" Public Foundation, "Development Solutions Institute" Foundation, ACER Reggio Emilia, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Centre for Socio-Economic Development (CSEND), Clarion Housing Group, Economic and Social Research Institute, EPB Center, European Network of Housing Research, Fédération Française des Coopératives d'Habitants, Habitat for Humanity International, Housing Europe, Hurbanity, Inter-Agency Network for SDGS, Interbilim, International Council of Women, International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI), National Real Estate Association, Québec Arbres, Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus), Risk Reduction Foundation, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), and the Union sociale pour l'habitat.

7. Representatives of local authorities and municipalities, private-sector representatives, independent experts and academics from universities and research institutions also attended, at the invitation of the secretariat.

III. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 1)

Documentation

ECE/HBP/200

8. The Chair of the Committee, Ms. Elena Szolgayová (Slovakia), presented the provisional agenda, which was adopted without any changes.

9. Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, called for a minute of silence to pay respect to Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECE, who had passed away that morning. She recalled his professionalism and his successful career in the United Nations, as well as his tireless dedication to the work of ECE.

10. In her opening speech, Ms. Valovaya noted the importance of promoting evidence-based urban policies to support more effectively governments throughout the process of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She also noted the transition of

modern multilateralism to new, more inclusive settings where municipalities and cities need to have a voice.

11. Mr. Yury Ambrazevich, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the UNOG and other International Organizations in Geneva, thanked ECE for their contribution to improving housing policy in Belarus, in particular through the preparation of the Country Profile on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management; and underlined the importance of promoting sustainable housing and urban development in the country and the region.

12. Mr. Graham Alabaster, UN-Habitat representative, expressed thanks for the partnership with ECE and hope that cooperation will be strengthened by the renewed Geneva office. He noted the joint work on evidence-based policies in countries with economies in transition and highlighted the work of UN-Habitat on access to adequate and affordable housing and housing at the centre.

13. Ms. Paola Deda, Officer in Charge, Forests, Land and Housing Division, noted the importance of the discussions and close cooperation of the Committee with UN-Habitat on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and other agreements. She noted the change of the name of the Committee, and how the scope of the Committee's work has evolved, hence the reflection of urban development in its name. She also highlighted the importance of work on housing affordability and the urgent need to tackle this in the ECE region.

14. Ms. Elena Szolgayová, Chair, Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, commended the high number of participants at the session and discussed the journey of the Committee during its existence and the relevance of its work.

15. The Chair reported that 216 delegates from 42 ECE countries had registered for the meeting.

IV. Review of the implementation of the programme of work 2018-2019 (agenda item 2)

A. Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development (agenda item 2a)

Documentation

(ECE/HBP/194), (ECE/HBP/2019/1), (ECE/HBP/2019/2), (ECE/HBP/2019/ Inf.1)

16. The secretariat presented the project activities and the guidelines for evidence-based housing and urban development policies prepared within the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) 10th tranche project "Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition", which is being implemented in 2016-2020 by the ECE Housing and Land Management Unit and UN-Habitat with expert support from the University of Geneva.

17. Representatives of France, the Netherlands and the Russian Federation presented experiences and best practices in developing evidence-based urban policies at national level. Representatives of Governments of Albania, Georgia and Ukraine presented information on pilot projects in their countries implemented within the project. Panellists concluded that although considerable efforts have been made to promote and implement evidence-based approaches to policies on sustainable housing and urban development, there is a need for further discussions specifically in relation to housing affordability, an important issue for many ECE countries.

18. The development of evidence-based policies at the city level was also discussed. Representatives of the city of Trondheim, Norway; Voznesensk, Ukraine; and Cascais, Portugal; presented their experiences. They emphasized the importance of both cooperation

between national and local governments in data collection and analysis, and participatory approaches to the development of housing and urban development policies.

19. A representative of the Harvard School of Design opened the final panel on evidence-based policies, inviting speakers to discuss evidence-based policies that they have implemented in their respective areas. Representatives of UN-Habitat, the European Commission, City of Vienna, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro and the University of Geneva provided remarks. The panel concluded that national, regional and local governments and other stakeholders in the ECE region: (i) need to collect data in order to develop comprehensive national housing programmes; (ii) will require further support to develop national and local sets of indicators for monitoring and implementation of sustainable housing and urban development policies and the SDGs; and (iii) need to recognize the importance of the use of evidence in policy processes and decision-making for sustainable urban development.

20. The Committee:

- Took note of the implementation of the activities of the UNDA 10th tranche project and congratulated the Governments of Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine on progress made towards the development of evidence-based policies on sustainable housing and urban development
- Endorsed the Guidelines on evidence-based policies and decision-making for sustainable housing and urban development (ECE/HBP/2019/ Inf. 1) developed within the UNDA project and approved the printing of the guidance document as an official publication in English and Russian, digital and print
- Took note of the preparation of the UNDA 10th tranche project policy paper on evidence-based policies and decision-making for sustainable housing and urban development and invited the secretariat to submit it to the attention of the Committee at its eighty-first session
- Invited the secretariat to initiate capacity building activities for national and local governments on evidence-based policies through the organization of regional, national and local capacity building and communication activities, such as the preparation of a video and e-learning resources in support of the regional observatory on evidence-based policies and social media, subject to the availability of funds
- Noted with appreciation the activities carried out in relation to improving evidence-based policy-making for urban and housing development at the national, regional and local levels
- Took note of the activities under the UNDA 11th tranche project “Strengthening evidence-based and participatory housing policies and strategies” carried out in cooperation with UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria.

B. Sustainable housing and real estate markets (agenda item 2b)

1. Panel “Ensuring access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all”

Documentation

(ECE/HBP/194), (ECE/HBP/2019/2), (ECE/HBP/2019/Inf. 2), (ECE/HBP/2019/Inf. 3), (ECE/HBP/2019/Inf. 4), (ECE/HBP/2019/Inf.13)

21. A representative of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic reported on the organization of the International Conference “Strategic Planning of Affordable and Sustainable Housing in Cities”, which took place on 21-22 June 2019 in Prague. A representative of the World Economic Forum (WEF) presented a report on “Making Housing Affordability a Reality for Cities”. A representative of OECD informed

on an ongoing survey of member States on housing affordability using QUASH methodology. Furthermore, a representative of Ireland explained challenges of housing affordability for different population groups, especially for ageing populations. A representative of the Russian Federation reported on the implementation of a nation-wide programme on social housing. Panellists concluded there is a need for a more holistic approach to housing affordability and stressed the important role of land management in the promotion of affordable housing.

22. The Chair reminded that the Committee at its seventy-ninth session requested the secretariat to conduct a survey of member States to identify their needs and priorities for capacity-building activities. The Chair further proposed to implement a survey and develop a study on housing affordability in the ECE region. Representatives of the Housing Europe and UN-Habitat provided comments to the study proposal. Suggestions were proposed to address challenges in the implementation of housing affordability mechanisms and on how to connect the private and public sectors for adequate and affordable housing.

23. The Chair further reminded the Committee that a study on housing for migrants and refugees, which was mandated by the seventy-sixth Committee session, was finalised, endorsed by the Bureau and proposed to be published as an official publication. The secretariat informed the delegates that the IOM definition of migrants would be used in the publication.

24. The Committee:

- Agreed to undertake an additional review of the study “Housing for Migrants and Refugees” examining the current challenges and practices in housing migrants and refugees in the ECE region through the organization of informal meetings with permanent missions in Geneva in order to submit in a timely fashion a revised draft for consideration of the 81st session
- Took note of the activities promoting housing affordability at regional and global levels, including the workshops organized in: Sofia, Bulgaria (15-16 November 2018); Prague, Czech Republic (21-22 June 2019); Lyon, France (7 June 2019); and Glasgow, the UK (12-13 September 2019)
- Invited those member States who did not yet participate in the survey of using the OECD QUASH methodology, to join the survey
- Invited the Bureau to develop the study: “Improving Housing Affordability in the UNECE region” in cooperation with UN-Habitat, Housing Europe, and OECD
- Underlined the importance of the activities of the Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence for the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and the Committee’s programme of work and invited the Bureau to regularly review and advise on the activities of the Centres
- Took note of the establishment of new Centres in Trondheim, Norway; Nursultan, Kazakhstan; and in Geneva, Switzerland, to be hosted by the University of Geneva.

2. Energy efficiency in buildings

Documentation:

(ECE/HBP/2019/1), (ECE/HBP/198)

25. A representative of the ECE Sustainable Energy Division informed delegates about the outcomes of the work of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings of the ECE Region since the Committee's seventy-ninth session. He also informed that the Committee on Sustainable Energy endorsed the amended terms of reference for the Joint Task Force and extended the mandate for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/8, Annex). He invited the Committee to continue participation in the work of the Joint Task Force for the period 2020-2021, to endorse the amended terms of reference for the Joint Task Force and to agree to extend its mandate for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/8, Annex).

26. The representatives of George Mason University, the Estonian Union of Housing Cooperatives, Habitat for Humanity and the National Real Estate Association of Bulgaria, discussed experiences and best practices in promoting sustainable energy-efficiency in buildings and deliberated on possible future activities of the Joint Task Force. They underlined the importance of connecting the topics of energy efficiency standards and management of multi-apartment buildings, as part of the activities of the Joint Task Force.

27. The Committee

- Took note of the activities and outcomes of the work of the Joint Task Force since the Committee's seventy-ninth session and decided to continue the Committee's participation in the work of the Joint Task Force for the period 2020-2021
- Endorsed the amended "Terms of Reference of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings of the ECE Region for 2020-2021" and agreed to extend the mandate of the Joint Task Force for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/8, Annex)
- Stressed the importance of focusing the activities of the Joint Task Force on the topic of management of multi-apartment buildings and invited the secretariat to conduct capacity-building activities on the topic
- Invited member States and other stakeholders to provide financial and in-kind support to these activities
- Noted with appreciation the development of a training curriculum on the management of multi-apartment buildings and energy efficiency in buildings in English and Russian by the secretariat in cooperation with the ECE Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Housing; and on the organization of capacity-building activities on the same topics in countries with economies in transition.

3. Fire safety standards in buildings

Documentation:

(ECE/HBP/2019/1), (ECE/HBP/2019/Inf. 5)

28. A representative of RICS provided an update on the development of the set of high-level international standards on fire safety for buildings. He explained that the new set of standards that is being developed by the International Fire Safety Coalition aims to provide greater clarity and global consistency in the application of fire safety to buildings at the project, national, regional and international level. He informed the delegates that the set of the standards will be prepared in 2019, will further undergo public consultation and will be finalised in 2020.

29. The Committee:

- Took note of activities of the International Fire Safety Standards (IFSS) Coalition on the development of a set of new, high-level international standards on fire safety for buildings
- Noted that RICS serves as a secretariat to the IFSS Coalition for the development of the standard
- Invited the IFSS Coalition to submit the set of standards, upon its finalisation, to the Committee for its consideration and possible adoption as an ECE standard.

4. Activities of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group

Documentation:

(ECE/HBP/2018/L.2), (ECE/HBP/2018/L.3), (ECE /HBP/2019/Inf. 4)

30. The Chair of the Advisory Group presented to the Committee a report on the activities of the Advisory Group since the seventy-ninth Committee session. A representative of the Advisory Group from Spain reported on the preparation of the study

“Sharing Economy in the Housing Sector in the UNECE Region”.

31. The Committee:

- Took note of the report on activities of the Advisory Group since the seventy-ninth Committee session
- Invited the Advisory Group to continue its work on the study concerning the sharing economy in the housing sector
- Invited the Advisory Group to contribute to the following Committee activities:
 - Organization of capacity building workshops and training on the application of the KPIs for smart sustainable cities
 - Organization of, and fundraising for, capacity building activities on housing policies, including housing affordability, accessibility and energy efficiency in buildings.
- Welcomed the Advisory Group’s publication “Policy framework for sustainable real estate markets” and thanked the Advisory Group members for their work
- Congratulated Ms. Paloma Taltavull on her election as Chair and Ms. Kat Grimsley and Mr. Reiner Lux as Vice-Chairs of the Advisory Group and thanked Mr. Bambagioni, the outgoing Chair, for his leadership and contribution to the work of the group.

C. Sustainable urban development and smart sustainable cities (agenda item 2c)

1. Matters arising from the sixty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Day of Cities

Documentation:

(ECE/HBP/2019/3)

32. The secretariat reported on outcomes of both the ECE sixty-eighth Commission session, with the overall theme “Smart Sustainable Cities: Drivers for Sustainable Development”, which took place on 9 and 10 April 2019; and the Day of Cities (Geneva, 8 April 2019). The delegates were also informed that the Committee Bureau at its meeting on 6 June 2019 discussed outcomes of the Commission session and of the Day of Cities and recommended the Committee to consider establishing, as part of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, for two years a Forum of Mayors and a steering committee to support the work of the Forum of Mayors.

33. The Committee was invited to consider a document that gave an overview of the discussions at the Day of Cities, feedback from the participants, and suggestions by the Committee Bureau for the convening of the Forum of Mayors and establishment of a steering committee to support the Forum of Mayors activities. The Committee was invited to deliberate on how the Committee could strengthen its support to cities to enhance their potential and develop solutions to achieve the SDGs at the city level, including through the establishment of a Forum of Mayors and a steering committee as part of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management. Interventions by Spain, France, the Russian Federation, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Albania, Portugal, Italy, Slovakia and the World Economic Forum followed.

34. The mayors of Helsingborg (Sweden) and Tirana (Albania), the deputy mayor of Cascais (Portugal), the Chairman of the Board of Chaussy District (Belarus); the Chief Urbanist of Glasgow (UK); and a representative of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria informed on activities to promote sustainable housing and urban development in cities. Panellists highlighted the importance of people-centered policy-making for cities, creating smart cities based on evidence and that city governments are at the frontline in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. The panellists

welcomed the opportunity to foster greater knowledge exchange and be part of this network of cities.

35. The Committee:

- Recognized the important role of cities and local authorities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs
- Agreed to dedicate one of the three days of the Committee session to discussions concerning, and involving the participation of, local authorities, in particular mayors, following a similar format to the Day of Cities. The Forum of Mayors will be organized on the first day of the Committee session and focus on a specific thematic issue related to sustainable urban development, housing and land management
- Decided to hold the Forum in 2020 and 2021. An assessment of the meeting format, based on parameters agreed upon by the Committee Bureau, will be presented at the Committee session in 2022 to decide whether to continue with the format, change format (e.g. organizing the Forum back to back with other ECE events and meetings) or discontinue the meeting
- Invited the Forum to transmit its recommendations on how to address the challenges that local authorities/governments face in achieving sustainable urban development, housing and land management to the Committee in the context of assisting the Committee in its activities in the ECE region
- Further invited the Forum to transmit its recommendations relevant to other ECE bodies to the relevant bodies for information and possible consideration (e.g., Committee on Sustainable Energy, Inland Transport Committee, etc.)
- Decided that the Forum will be supported by a steering committee composed of interested Committee Bureau members and ECE sustainable smart cities nexus experts based on the thematic session of the Forum and invited by the secretariat. The steering committee will communicate mainly via electronic means. The functions of the steering committee would be to assist the secretariat with:
 - The identification of the mayors to be invited by the secretariat, relevant in terms of the topic to be covered by the Forum, with the consent of the respective member States
 - The identification of the topic to be covered by the Forum
 - The identification of relevant cases to present at the Forum
 - Advice on substantive matters related to the Forum discussion and reviewing background documents prepared by the secretariat in support of the discussions, if any.
- Agreed that an assessment of its results and functions will be presented to the Committee session in 2022 for its consideration and possible extension or format change
- Agreed on the theme to be covered by the 2020 Forum of Mayors – Cities Climate Action.

2. Implementation of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) programme

Documentation:

(ECE/HBP/2019/1), (ECE/HBP/2019/4), (ECE/HBP/2019/5) (ECE/HBP/2019/Inf.6), (ECE/HBP/2019/Inf.7), (ECE/HBP/2019/Inf.8), (ECE/HBP/2019/Inf.12), (ECE/HBP/2019/Inf.14)

36. The secretariat reported on activities under the U4SSC programme since the seventy-ninth Committee session. Final versions of the U4SSC studies on circular cities and on financing smart sustainable cities were presented for the attention of the delegates.

The Committee was informed on the publication Smart Sustainable Cities Profile: Voznesensk, Ukraine which was prepared jointly with the city of Voznesensk and UNDP Ukraine.

37. Furthermore, the Committee was informed on the new project on smart sustainable cities “Smart Sustainable Cities for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda in the ECE Region” to be supported by UNECE and UN-Habitat. The project will be implemented with the support of the UN Development Account 12th tranche project.

38. Meeting participants were informed about the update of the terms of reference of U4SSC and efforts by ITU, UN-Habitat and UN University to update the KPIs.

39. The secretariat also handed an ITU-ECE-UN-Habitat certificate to the city of Voznesensk for undertaking the KPIs assessment under the U4SSC programme.

40. The Committee:

- Reiterated its invitation to national and local governments to use the KPIs for Smart Sustainable Cities to evaluate smartness and sustainability of cities
- Took note of the ongoing and planned activities on smart sustainable cities, including those under the U4SSC initiative (ECE/HBP/2019/4)
- Endorsed the revised terms of reference of U4SSC (see annex)
- Took note of the possible revision of the KPIs and agreed with the proposed next steps (ECE/HBP/2019/ Inf. 7) and entrusted the secretariat, in cooperation with the Bureau, with the revision process
- Took note of the preparation of the “Guide to Circular Cities (ECE/HBP/2019/ Inf. 6) and the “Guidelines on tools and mechanisms to finance smart sustainable cities” projects (ECE/HBP/2019/ Inf. 8) and approved to publish “Guide to Circular Cities” as an official publication in English and Russian, digital and print
- Took note of the organization, subject to availability of funds, of side events on smart sustainable cities during the Smart City Expo World Congress (Barcelona, 19-21 November 2019), World Urban Forum (Abu-Dhabi, 8-13 February 2020) and in any other relevant smart sustainable cities’ events, as appropriate.

41. Representatives of the ECE divisions involved in the ECE nexus on “Sustainable and smart cities for all ages” presented on their work. Presentations covered subjects including: the nexus approach giving a holistic view and strengthening bonds across subprogrammes; cities being hubs of innovation; the activities of the PEP – the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme; and transportation planning being integrated into land use planning, using tools such as, Mobility as a Service (Maas), the handbook on sustainable transport and urban planning.

42. The Committee:

- Noted with appreciation the establishment of the ECE nexus on smart sustainable cities involving different ECE subprogrammes
- Welcomed the organization of a sub-regional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety, to be organized in Belgrade, Serbia, in March 2020 jointly with the secretariat of the Convention on Industrial Accidents
- Agreed to the nexus flagship publication on smart sustainable cities to be prepared as an official publication in English, French and Russian, digital and print
- Noted the proposals to organize the following activities under the SSC nexus: National training workshops on evidence-based policies under the UNDA 11th and 12th tranche projects in Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine.

D. Land administration and management (agenda item 2d)

Documentation:

(ECE/HBP/2019/6), (ECE/HBP/2019/7), (ECE/HBP/2018/Inf. 9), (ECE/HBP/2018/Inf. 10), (ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.11), (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2019/2)

43. The Chair of the Working Party on Land Administration reported on activities carried out by the Working Party since the last session of the Committee. He informed the delegates on outcomes of the Working Party Eleventh session (Geneva, 27-28 February 2019) which endorsed its draft terms of reference for the period 2021-2025 and the programme of work for 2020-2021. Issues including the importance of land, and how securing ownership rights is critical and using a holistic approach to land management is needed to achieve sustainable development were highlighted.

44. The Working Party Bureau member representing Greece presented information on the progress made on the preparation of the Technical Guidelines on Informal Development in the ECE region. She highlighted the importance of formalizing property rights as the cost of inaction in this matter affects the most vulnerable groups.

45. The representative of the Republic of Moldova and the representative of the Permanent Mission of France to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva reported on the organization of the “Sub-regional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus”. The Chair commended the joint work in the transboundary context as it affects many of the member States in the ECE region and will impact future development.

46. The secretariat presented the Programme of Work 2020-2021 of the Working Party.

47. The Committee:

- Agreed on the extension of the Working Party mandate for the period 2021-2025, approved the draft revised Terms of Reference and to transmit it to the ECE Executive Committee for final approval
- Approved the programme of work 2020-2021 and to transmit it to the ECE Executive Committee for final approval
- Noted with appreciation the activities of the Working Party on Land Administration, including the excellent organization of its eleventh session (Geneva, 27-28 February 2019) and the side event to the eleventh session “Measuring Progress in the Implementation of SDGs, the Role of Data and Statistics in Monitoring Land Administration and Management” (28 February 2019)
- Took note of progress in the preparation of the following studies of the Working Party:
 - Guidelines for the formalization of informal constructions: Informal Development in UNECE Region
 - The study on land consolidation practices in Europe
 - The Survey on costs for registration and transfer of real estate and mortgages for the ECE region
 - The Study on Fraud in Land Administration Systems
 - The Future Scenarios in Land Administration study
- Took note of the Working Party upcoming workshops in 2020:
 - The WPLA workshop in Helsinki, 20-21 November 2019, to be organized as part of the PCC Conference 2019
 - Proposed workshop, NSDI: Towards Digital Society in Baku, April 2020
 - WPLA workshop “International and Indigenous Perspectives for Sustainable Land Governance” in Mont Tremblant, Canada, 19-21 May 2020, to be

organized jointly with the Surveyor General of State Lands, Natural Resources Canada.

E. Country profiles on urban development, housing and land management (agenda item 2e)

Documentation:

(ECE/HBP/2019/1), (ECE/HBP/195)

48. A representative of the Ministry of Architecture and Construction of Belarus, international experts and a representative of UN-Habitat presented outcomes of the Country Profile on Housing and Land Management of Belarus. The next steps for the implementation of the recommendations of the Country Profile were discussed including the preparation of the National Urban Policy for Belarus and the need to plan for future actions. Appreciation was given for the professional and excellent cooperation between all the stakeholders.

49. Government representatives of Armenia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan reported on the implementation of policy recommendations of country profiles prepared by UNECE for their countries. UN-Habitat recalled the value of evidence-based products and the need for enhanced coordination in the context of the new regional architecture and the Sustainable Development Framework, including in the preparation of Common Country Assessments. She also reminded participants about the Third International Conference on National Urban Policy to be held in Nairobi, Kenya on 28-31 October 2019.

50. Albania requested that a second country profile be prepared for the country. The Country Profile should focus on indicators, evidence-based policies and the role of municipalities.

51. The Committee:

- Thanked the Government of Belarus for the excellent cooperation in the preparation of the Country Profile of Belarus and requests the Government of Belarus to report on the implementation of the Country Profile recommendations, as appropriate;
- Took note of the implementation of the country profiles' policy recommendations in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan;
- Took note of the request by Albania to undertake a second country profile on urban development, housing and land management and invited a representative of Albania to liaise with the secretariat on this matter.

V. Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (agenda item 3)

52. The Committee Chair presented a proposal agreed by the Bureau at its meeting on 1 October 2019 to organize the ECE Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management in October 2021 and to focus the meeting on the topic of housing affordability.

53. The Committee:

- Decided to organize a Ministerial Meeting in October 2021 to review and discuss further steps in the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, the ECE Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management 2014-2020 and the Ministerial Declaration
- Requested the Bureau to support the organization of the Ministerial Meeting, as appropriate, including the drafting of the agenda
- Invited member States to consider hosting the Ministerial Meeting in their countries

- Requested the Bureau to report on the proposal for the Ministerial Meeting and that countries interested to host it to inform the eighty-first session of the Committee in 2020 for its consideration.

VI. Programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2020 and Publications for 2019-2020 (agenda item 4, 5)

Documentation:

(ECE/HBP/2019/1), (ECE/HBP/2019/8)

54. The secretariat presented the planned programme of work 2020, including publications.
55. The Committee adopted its programme of work for 2020 with the following update:
- To substitute in the list of official publications the Country Profile Cyprus publication for the UNECE/UN-Habitat “Guidelines on evidence-based policies and decision-making for sustainable housing and urban development”, mandated by the seventy-ninth session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management
 - To add as an official publication the development of an SSC nexus flagship publication on smart sustainable cities in 2020 in English, French and Russian, digital and print.

VII. Human Settlements Trust Fund (agenda item 6)

Documentation:

(ECE/HBP/2019/9)

56. Delegates were informed of the status of the Human Settlements Trust Fund and discussed how to streamline funding in line with current UN and ECE regulations.
57. The Committee:
- Decided to maintain the Human Settlement Trust Fund to support activities of the Committee and the related ECE sub-programme through a new Umoja project ID under the Trust Fund code 32ECE with the understanding that there will be a continuation of activities in the future
 - Urged member States to consider replenishing the Trust Fund to cover activities contained in the programme of work (ECE/ HBP/2017/7; ECE/HBP/2019/8) and in the list of activities for 2019-2020 as contained in document ECE/HBP/2018/1, and in accordance with ECE rules and regulations.

VII. Election of the Bureau (agenda item 7)

58. The Committee elected the Bureau members, including its Chair and two Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the end of the eighty-first session. The Committee elects the following individuals to hold office until the end of the eighty-first session by acclamation:

- Ms. Doris Andoni, Albania (Chair)
- Mr. Elshad Khanalibayli, Azerbaijan (Vice Chair)
- Ms. Aša Rogelj, Slovenia (Vice-Chair)

- Mr. Dmitry Doroshevich, Belarus
- Ms. Marie Mohylova, Czech Republic
- Ms. Maja-Marija Nahod, Croatia
- Ms Nino Gventsadze, Georgia
- Mr. Yves Laurent Sapoval, France
- Mr. Giampiero Bambagioni, Italy
- Mr. Olzhas Sartayev, Kazakhstan
- Ms. Veronika Rehakova, Slovakia
- Ms. Beatriz Corredor, Spain
- Ms. Joana Balsemao, Portugal
- Mr. Andrey Chibis, Russian Federation
- Mr. Edouard Jay, Switzerland
- Ms. Emma Vincent, UK
- Ms. Marge Martin, USA
- Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist Sweden (ex officio)

VIII. Other business (agenda item 8)

59. The Committee expressed its gratitude to the following outgoing Bureau members for their contribution to the work of the Committee:

- Ms. Elena Szolgayová, Slovakia (Chair)
- Ms. Daniela Grabmüllerová, Czech Republic (Vice Chair)
- Ms. Alena Rakava, Belarus
- Ms. Lise Heinesen, Denmark
- Mr. Stefano Scalera, Italy

60. The secretariat informed that, as some countries made preliminary offers to host the next session of the Committee, a date and venue for the meeting cannot be communicated at this stage. The secretariat will inform and consult the Bureau on this matter in due course.

IX. Adoption of the report and closing of the session (agenda item 9)

61. The Chair summarized the major decisions taken by the Committee. The Committee was invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat. The report was adopted, and the Chair closed the session at 16:40.

Annex

Terms of Reference of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) Initiative

A. Background information

1. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) have developed an internationally agreed definition for a smart sustainable city: “A smart sustainable city is an innovative city that uses information and communication technologies (ICTs) and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental as well as cultural aspects.”
2. The United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative was launched on 18 May 2016 at the Forum on “Shaping smarter and more sustainable cities: Striving for Sustainable Development Goals”.
3. Since its inception, U4SSC has been functioning as a global platform for knowledge sharing on feasible smart city practices, guidelines and frameworks. U4SSC is a platform among agencies of the UN system, which is open for participation of other organizations and stakeholders.
4. The U4SSC advocates for public policies to encourage the use of innovative urban technologies and tools, including ICTs, to facilitate the transition to smart sustainable cities (SSC).
5. The U4SSC developed and is promoting the implementation of a set of international key performance indicators (KPIs) for smart sustainable cities to achieve the sustainable development goals.
6. The U4SSC Implementation Programme supports the promotion of the implementation of the U4SSC KPIs in cities, carries out projects, and builds partnerships which aim to build smarter and more sustainable cities worldwide.

B. Partners of the U4SSC

7. The U4SSC partners are agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system. The following organizations are currently partners of the U4SSC: the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), , the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI), the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations University - Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

C. U4SSC Participants

7. The Participants of the U4SSC are experts representing interested national and local organizations and agencies, international organizations, cities and their associations, NGOs, private sector, academia and independent experts.

D. Management team

8. The U4SSC Management Team includes two Co-Chairs and two Vice-Chairs who are experts nominated by the Partners and approved by the Partners Board. The U4SSC Implementation Programme (U4SSC-IP) has a designated leader mandated to coordinate the work of U4SSC-IP and its associated activities. The leader of U4SSC-IP is responsible for the development and implementation of the U4SSC Action Plan together with other U4SSC Leaders.

9. The work of the U4SSC is carried out by designated Leaders of Thematic Groups who organize work on specific topics and organize preparation of specific deliverables (reports, studies, etc.) as agreed during the U4SSC annual meeting or as approved electronically by the Partners Board. The Leaders are technical experts who are appointed by U4SSC Co-Chairperson in consultation with U4SSC partners.

10. The Initiative has the following objectives, which are set in accordance with the mandate of the U4SSC Partners:

- (a) To support the creation of legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks for SSC also through relevant U4SSC Partners' intergovernmental and institutional bodies;
- (b) To provide practical guidance to decision makers and other key stakeholders on sustainable urban development;
- (c) To foster discussions on the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and its applications, including, inter alia, Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain and artificial intelligence in facilitating the transition to SSC;
- (d) To encourage cooperation among relevant smart city stakeholders;
- (e) To provide an accessible and neutral platform for knowledge sharing on SSC related issues;
- (f) To support the implementation of the U4SSC Key Performance Indicators for SSC and to harmonize methodologies and approaches to assess cities' performance;
- (g) To develop a Global Smart Sustainable Cities Index to rank cities based on their smartness and sustainabilities;
- (h) To encourage the development of master plans and other strategic documents for cities wishing to transition into smart sustainable cities;
- (i) To encourage cities to incorporate smart and sustainable city elements into their current sustainable urban development strategies;
- (j) To enhance discussions on SSC through the preparation of policy papers, recommendations and guidelines;
- (k) To promote the organization of raising awareness campaigns on smart sustainable city-related topics;
- (l) To help achieve and monitor progress on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 11 on cities and human settlements, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda and other international commitments, including related ITU Resolutions, UNECE or U4SSC Partners initiatives;
- (m) To develop and implement projects and programmes to support cities in becoming smarter and more sustainable;
- (n) To develop city support tools;

- (o) To carry out fundraising campaigns and mobilize resources to support the activities of U4SSC and its Programme;
- (p) To raise awareness in order to promote the U4SSC and its activities.

E. Responsibilities of the U4SSC Partners Board

11. The Partners Board comprises 16 UN agencies, funds and programmes (U4SSC partners). The Partners Board of the U4SSC are responsible for the development of strategic directions of work of the Initiative. It will also:

- (a) Adopt the annual U4SSC Action Plan elaborated by the Chairs, Vice Chairs, Leaders with the support of the Secretariat;
- (b) Provide strategic guidance;
- (c) Approve the revision of the ToR (when needed);
- (d) Approve the appointment of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons;
- (e) Actively contribute to the production of the deliverables and other activities conducted within the U4SSC;
- (f) Actively disseminate the products of the U4SSC through their networks and relevant events;
- (g) Ensure that the main objectives of the U4SSC are met;
- (h) Support the U4SSC Secretariat when required.

12. The Board can also provide its approval electronically in between U4SSC physical meetings.

F. Responsibilities of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the U4SSC

13. The functions are:

- (a) To oversee the overall functioning of the U4SSC;
- (b) To contribute to the development of a U4SSC Annual Action Plan which will help to monitor the progress of each deliverable and ensure its timely delivery with support from the Leaders and Secretariat;
- (c) To provide guidance in case any dispute or overlap occurs between scopes of the deliverables;
- (d) To promote the work of the U4SSC at the international and regional level;
- (e) To encourage smart sustainable city stakeholders to join the U4SSC;
- (f) To guide U4SSC participants and leaders in their work.

G. Responsibilities of Leaders of U4SSC

14. The responsibilities are:

- (a) To propose development of specific deliverable(s) linked to the subject areas of the U4SSC;
- (b) To develop a work plan for his/her deliverable and inform the U4SSC Secretariat accordingly;
- (c) To supervise the work related to his or her own deliverable;
- (d) To develop a feasible schedule for the deliverable they are responsible for, including a realistic work plan and the calendar of e-meetings;

- (e) To take the meeting minutes for each e-meeting held for their deliverable and upload them regularly to the Initiative web-based “SharePoint” site (<https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/initiatives/U4SSC/SitePages/Home.aspx>);
- (f) To harmonize the inputs provided on each deliverable;
- (g) To clearly define the titles, objectives and scope of each activity and deliverable proposed, including, but not limited to, policy papers, frameworks, issue papers, etc.;
- (h) To promote cooperation with the U4SSC Co-Chairs and other Leaders, when possible, to find synergies and work together on common topics;
- (i) To provide inputs to the Partners’ Board based on the discussions conducted on the deliverable they are in charge of;
- (j) To ensure that the smart sustainable city guidelines, policy recommendations, campaigns and smart city action plans are aligned with, inter alia, existing international standards, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), the New Urban Agenda, Paris Agreement, Connect 2020 Agenda and the SDGs;
- (k) To promote the U4SSC through events and campaigns and their organizations’ network and events;
- (l) To support and contribute to the overall objectives of U4SSC;
- (m) To inform their respective organizations of their involvement in the U4SSC initiative.

H. Responsibilities of Participants

15. The responsibilities of the participants are:

- (a) To select the deliverable(s) they wish to contribute to and inform the U4SSC Secretariat and the leader(s) accordingly;
- (b) To follow closely any global discussions on SSC which may be relevant to the work of the U4SSC and its deliverables;
- (c) To bring their expertise on diverse subjects within the smart and sustainable urban development field to the discussions of the deliverable(s) they are working on;
- (d) To participate in meetings or events of the U4SSC, as appropriate;
- (e) To encourage smart city transitions through other events, conferences and trainings;
- (f) To support bottom up initiatives on SSC that are ICT enabled;
- (g) To collect relevant case studies and good practices on smart sustainable city related topics for the development of proposed deliverables.

I. Responsibilities of the U4SSC Secretariat

16. The Secretariat of the Initiative is responsible for coordinating its activities; it is open to the participation of other U4SSC Partners.

17. In order to join the Initiative, potential partners and other participants are invited to contact the Secretariat by email.

18. ITU (Telecommunication Standardization Bureau) , UNECE (Housing and Land Management Unit) and UN-Habitat jointly operate as the Secretariat of the U4SSC with their available resources and work programmes. The scope of the Initiative depends on the availability of resources to support the Secretariat and the work within the Initiative. The main responsibilities of the U4SSC Secretariat are:

- (a) To assist with the organization of the work on the deliverables and the U4SSC-IP;
- (b) To assist the consolidation of the deliverables, if required;
- (c) To coordinate the official communications and press releases for the U4SSC;
- (d) To organize the yearly meeting of the U4SSC where the mandates, Chairperson, Vice- Chairpersons and activities of the whole initiative are discussed and approved;
- (e) To bring the results of work to attention and action, as appropriate, of relevant UNECE, ITU, UN-Habitat or other U4SSC partners' intergovernmental bodies.

J. Additional provisions

19. Participation in the U4SSC is free of charge.
20. The travel medical insurance (if required), travel expenses, visa, accommodation and living expenses are responsibility of the individual or of his/her respective agency.
21. Participation in the U4SSC is voluntary and not remunerated. It does not carry any expectation of employment with ITU, UNECE, UN-Habitat or any of the other participating UN agencies.
22. The U4SSC Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Leaders' tenure is one year . Subsequent renewal or appointing of a new Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or Leader is possible.
23. All U4SSC partners are entitled to feature their official logos on the Initiative website, publications, issue papers, policy papers, guidelines and action plan prepared within U4SSC.
24. The main website of the initiative is hosted at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/ssc/united/Pages/default.aspx> . This website includes the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the U4SSC, U4SSC introduction booklet, the links to U4SSC events, deliverables and other results of work.
25. An intranet site (SharePoint) has been created by ITU to facilitate the communication between Partners and other participants.
26. The participants, Leaders, Vice-Chairpersons and Chairperson shall not use their participation in the U4SSC for their personal or corporate gain or benefit; shall respect confidentiality until the results of work are completed.
27. All the material published based on the work of the U4SSC will be intellectual property of ITU, UNECE, UN-Habitat and other participating UN agencies, funds and programmes.
28. All unpublished material within the U4SSC is the intellectual property of ITU, UNECE, UN-Habitat and other participating UN agencies, funds and programmes. They cannot be reproduced or published without the written consent of the U4SSC Secretariat.
29. The logo of the U4SSC is also intellectual property of ITU, UNECE, UN-Habitat and other participating UN agencies, funds and programmes and can be used only after receiving the required approval of the U4SSC Secretariat.
30. Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, Leaders and participants invited to speak on behalf of U4SSC in other events as well as interested in presenting the work of the U4SSC in fora, journals, conferences etc. should inform the U4SSC Secretariat in advance in order to ensure smooth coordination of work.
31. The U4SSC Secretariat should be informed immediately of any shared or replicated work in other forums, publications or organizations, in order to avoid conflicts of interests or legal liabilities in the future.
32. The U4SSC Partners and the U4SSC Management Team can speak on behalf of U4SSC and are encouraged to inform the U4SSC Secretariat on their relevant activities.

33. Participants or other interested parties are encouraged to promote the work of U4SSC within their networks.
 34. Any fundraising activities that will take place under the umbrella of the U4SSC, will be coordinated by the U4SSC Implementation Programme together with the U4SSC Secretariat.
 35. Ms. Cristina Bueti, ITU; Robert Lewis-Lettington, UN-Habitat; and Ms. Gulnara Roll, UNECE, are the points of contact for the U4SSC Secretariat.
 36. By participating in the U4SSC, it is implied that each participant, Leader, Vice Chairpersons and Chairperson agree to the ToR in this document with no exceptions.
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