

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Report of the Meeting of the Bureau of the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA)

*26 November 2020
10:00 – 12:00 (CET)
WebEx*

Attendance:

Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist (Sweden), Chair
Ms. Mari Khardziani (Georgia)
Ms. Chryssy Potsiou, (Greece), Vice-Chair
Ms. Elena Busch (Norway)
Mr. Gil Matoses (Spain)
Mr. Filippo Cadamuro (Italy)
Ms. Galina Kirichenko (Russian Federation)
Ms. Victoria Abbott (United Kingdom)

UNECE Secretariat

Ms. Maike Salize
Ms. Gulnara Roll

Item 1: Opening and adoption of the agenda

The Chair of the Working Party, Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist, opened the meeting. The Bureau adopted the report of the previous meeting and the agenda.

Item 2: Programme of Work 2020-2021, including the work of Task Groups and status on actions

Capacity-building and international knowledge sharing:

2.1.1 **WPLA – FIG-Commission 7 joint session on PPP in Land Administration.** The secretariat updated the Bureau that the survey' results of the PPPs (Public Private Partnerships) in Land Administration were presented during the Online Annual Meeting 2020 of FIG-Commission 7 in the joint session "Building community resilience: urban-rural linkages and strategies to deal with COVID-19" (21 October). The workshop recording is accessible at: <https://youtu.be/zGJmXSBITkE>.

2.1.2 **Planning for the workshop in Sweden in 2021 on Education for Land Administration.** The Chair informed the Bureau that this workshop will be postponed until October 2021. At this point a new Master's Programme on Land Administration at Gavle University will have been completed and the workshop could build on the experience of this new Programme. Exact dates of the workshop

are to be announced. The workshop would be organized as a hybrid meeting with the opportunity to participate online or in-person.

The Chair invited interested Bureau members to contribute to the planning of the workshop programme. He proposed to organize a discussion at the next Bureau meeting to collect suggestions for educational programmes which could be presented at the workshop.

2.1.3 Planning for a series of webinars to exchange experience on COVID-19 impact and response in the land sector, in preparation of the 12th session.

Following a tour de table on the effects of COVID-19 on land administration and the proposal by Mr. Konstantin Litvintcev to organize a series of online expert exchanges on these effects and lessons learnt, the Chair invited the Bureau to suggest topics of interest for such webinars. These webinars could be organized in the lead up to the 12th WPLA session (31 May and 1 June 2021) (e.g., one webinar per month). Outcomes of the webinars could feed into the discussion during the first day of the session.

The webinars would have a length of about one hour, with one country taking the lead and up to two other countries commenting/complementing the presentation with their observations/experience and solutions.

The following possible themes for the webinars were proposed:

- (a) Accelerating digitalization: electronic signature, changes around practices adopted by different countries, submitting documents electronically.
Proposed webinar leaders: Ms. Victoria Abbott, Mr. Konstantin Litvintcev.
Country examples: e.g., United Kingdom, Russian Federation;
- (b) COVID-19 and the effects on the housing market and real estate prices.
Proposed webinar leader: Ms. Elena Busch. Country examples: e.g., Norway;
- (c) Working from home – impact on office culture, learnings, and solutions in public authorities in the land sector (also in terms of reduced travel to projects). Proposed leader: Ms. Victoria Abbott, country examples: e.g., United Kingdom;
- (d) Role of land administration data for supporting COVID-19 policies. Proposed leader: Ms. Chryssy Potsiou, country examples: e.g., Greece;
- (e) Electronic Fraud and Cyber Security in the times of COVID-19. Proposed leader: Ms. Victoria Abbott, country example: e.g., United Kingdom.

As FAO expressed interest in organizing jointly these webinars; the secretariat will share the proposed themes for the FAO input.

Studies on selected topics in land management

- 2.2.1 Scenarios for future land administration and management.** The Chair updated the Bureau on the preparation of the study and the planning for a consultation on the scenarios and the self-assessment questionnaire during the 12th Session. It is

planned to submit the draft study as official document to the WPLA for its consideration at its 12th session. This was discussed under item 3.1.1.

- 2.2.2 **PPPs for Land Administration.** After the presentation of the initial survey results at the FIG meeting (see item 2.1.1 above), the secretariat informed the Bureau of the proposal to organize a webinar on PPPs in Land Administration with the objective to share good practices in PPPs, to discuss the survey results, to discuss whether there was a need to update the 2005 principles on PPP in Land Administration before finalizing the study. It is planned to submit the study as an official document to the WPLA for consideration at its 12th session.
- 2.2.3 **Fraud in Land Administration.** Ms. Victoria Abbott updated the Bureau on the preparation of the study. The draft final study is aimed to be finalized by February 2021. She proposed to include short case studies. In that regard, it was proposed to organize a webinar on cyber security and electronic fraud. The impacts of COVID-19 and in particular the fact that people working from home on cyber security would be interesting to explore and reflect in the study.
- 2.2.4 **Post COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal settlements in the UNECE Region.** Ms. Chryssy Potsiou updated the Bureau on the project components to develop a Post COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan in Informal Settlements in the UNECE region. She explained that nine policies areas are currently being drafted in cooperation with experts, and inputs from UNECE staff members from the Nexus on Sustainable Smart Cities for All Ages, and other stakeholders. A first draft will be available by the end of December and presented to the Bureau at its next meeting. The final draft will be shared with the Bureau for approval before submitting it as official document to the WPLA for consideration at its 12th session.

The secretariat invited the Bureau to join the thematic workshops organized as part of this project. More information on the project and recordings of the workshops are available at <https://unece.org/housing/post-covid-19-recovery>.

Item 3: 12th Session of the WPLA

- 3.1.1 **Proposed planning for the Twelfth session of the WPLA (31 May and 1 June 2021).** The Chair introduced the proposed planning of the session and stressed that this session would follow a different format than usual, with the first day focusing on an interactive exchange on the scenarios of future land administration as well as the effects of COVID-19 on the land sector. The proposal was to have a workshop-like character on the first day and a more formal second day of the session. He opened the floor for comments.

The Bureau appreciated the proposal for breakout groups. Preparation material for the breakout session should be made available to guide the discussions. It was further proposed to consider participation from private sector to add different perspectives and experiences to the discussion on the first day of the session.

Further elaboration on the items of discussion in the breakout groups is necessary. It was also noted that in case of an online only session, the overall timetable of the session would need to be adjusted.

Elena Busch proposed an expert consultant to share experience on the application of IGIF in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine under the proposed agenda item 2 “Setting the scene”.

The Bureau reviewed and approved the planning for the 12th session. Based on the approved session planning, the secretariat will prepare the draft agenda of the session for consideration and approval of the Bureau at its next meeting.

- 3.1.2 **Election of the Bureau.** The secretariat informed that a new Bureau will be elected during the 12th WPLA session. In line with the Rules of Procedure, the WPLA Bureau shall elect one Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and as many additional Bureau members as the Working Party deems appropriate ([ECE/HBP/2014/7](#) paragraph 11). The term of office of Bureau members is two years; Bureau members, including the Chairperson, can be re-elected for two additional terms ([ECE/HBP/2014/7](#) paragraph 12), but may not serve more than six consecutive years. The secretariat requested the Bureau members to confirm by email if they are willing to continue as Bureau members. The secretariat will share this information also in a separate email.

Item 4: Upcoming events and WPLA participation

4.1 Events:

- 2 December 2020, 9:30–12:30 CET - Post Covid-19 Recovery Action Plan for Information Settlements in the UNECE Region - Validation Workshop – online
- 15 December 2020, 15:00–17:30 CET - Building Back Better in Informal Settlements as Step Towards more Sustainable Urbanization - online
- 31 May and 1 June 2021 - WPLA 12th Session – Valletta, Malta
- October 2021 - Workshop on education on land administration – Gavle, Sweden

Item 5: Other business

- 5.1 The secretariat requested the Bureau to confirm that their contact information is correct. This list will be used for communication on the upcoming WPLA session.

Item 6: Next Bureau meeting

- 6.1 The next bureau meeting is planned to take place during the last week of January. The exact date and time will be determined by doodle poll.