

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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

13 May 2019

9:00 – 16:00 (BST)

Offices of Her Majesty's Land Registry
Croydon (London)

Attendance:

Ms. Kirsikka Riekkinen (Finland), Vice-chair
Mr. Filippo Cadamuro (Italy)
Ms. Tanja Cenova (Republic of North Macedonia)
Mr. Gil Matoses (Spain)
Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist (Sweden), Chair
Ms. Victoria Abbott (United Kingdom)

Observers:

Mr. Zorancho Mukanov (Republic of North Macedonia)
Ms. Lynne Feddon (HMLR UK)
Mr. Ronal Patel (HMLR UK)

UNECE Secretariat

Ms. Amie Figueiredo

Item 1: Opening and adoption of the agenda

1.1 The Chair of the Working Party, Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist, opened the meeting and invited the bureau to make any amendments to the previous bureau meeting minutes and then to the agenda. No additional comments were made.

Item 2: Programme of work 2018-2019 and including the work of Task Groups and status on actions

Capacity building and international knowledge sharing:

- 2.1.1 The workshop Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Georgia: contribution of SDG indicators to evidence-based policy-making for sustainable housing and urban development at national and local levels, 26 and 27 June 2019, in Tbilisi. It was supported by the Norwegian Mapping Authority, Ministry of Innovation and Infrastructure of Georgia, the Land Registry of Georgia. <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51839>
- 2.1.2 The Conference, *The Ecosystems of related to Real Estate Conveyancing* and Plenary Meeting of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC) in Helsinki, Finland will be held 20-21 November 2019. The WPLA has been invited to organize a session. Ms. Kirsikka Riekkinen has

- been in contact with Pekka Halme who is organizing the event on behalf of National Land Survey of Finland for PCC. To register: <https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/PCC 2019 Helsinki 6897> (Please see attachments for more information)
- 2.1.3 The organization for the workshop on “International and Indigenous Perspectives for Sustainable Land Governance” in 19 May 2020 – Canada (Mont Tremblant). Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist has had monthly meetings with the organizers to discuss the title of the conference as well as the sessions that the WPLA will organize.
 - 2.1.4 The EG-LAM work and the draft Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA), was presented at the Ninth session of the Committee of Experts UN-GGIM 7 - 9 August 2019 and will be circulated to member States for consultation.
 - 2.1.5 FIG Commission 7 Annual meeting: Digital Twin, Smart Cities and Smart Land Information Annual Meeting 2019 was held 5-9 August 2019, Seoul, Republic of Korea, with participation from WPLA bureau members.

Land administration reviews:

- 2.2.1 Armenia has request support for assistance for three projects: Cadastral Valuation of Agricultural Lands; Integrated Cadastre; Online-Self Service-Paperless Real Estate Cadastre. Support from the bureau can be offered regarding securing of tenure and potential funds could be identified from EU-TAIEX. North Macedonia has experience in integrated cadastre and could potentially offer a study visit to North Macedonia, showing the online services that they have available. Further contact with Armenia must be made to move forward supporting these projects.

Studies:

- 2.3.1. Benchmarking of LA systems: The questionnaire for the *Study on the Cost for Registration and Transfer of Real Estate and Registration of Mortgages in the UNECE Countries* was sent to member States. The draft that was prepared by Mr. Paul Van Asperen and presented at the WPLA 11th session in February 2019. Was updated in July 2019 and will be presented at the Committee Session in early October 2019. The draft should be circulated to member States to verify the data that was submitted and if updates are needed. It will be completed by end 2019. There was discussion to carry out the survey every two years to monitor the trends.
- 2.3.2 Fraud in LA systems: The preliminary results were presented at the WPLA 11th session. The analysis will be presented at the Committee Session in October 2019 and then at the PCC conference in November 2019. There is a request for best practices from member States in order to complete the recommendations. It will be completed by end 2019. There was a presentation by Lynne Feddon from the fraud team at HMLR. Recommendations from the analysis is that a forum to share different types of fraud in registries would be useful to share lessons learned and to map organized fraud, it may also be useful to share country guides on how to buy

property. There is potential to submit an abstract for consideration at the Land and Poverty Conference 2020.

- 2.3.3 Informal settlements: The executive summary was produced and was available as an official document for the WPLA 11th Session. The guidelines are under review by the commenters and the final draft will be sent for editing and layout in September 2019. It will be presented at the Committee Session in October 2019. The publication must be printed by the end of 2019.
- 2.3.4 Land consolidation: The updated version of the study will be presented at the Committee Session in October 2019. The TG will be closed when the study is finalized.
- 2.3.5 Scenarios for future land administration: After the last roundtable in 20 March in Vienna, there will be a follow-up meeting in Helsinki in November 2019 on the fringes of the PCC conference. A summary of progress will be presented at the Committee Session in October 2019 and then at the PCC conference in November 2019.
- 2.3.6 Outreach and Promotion: There was a presentation by Mr. Ronal Patel, Head of Corporate Communications at HMLR presented how to develop a communication strategy. Key points to consider is the audience: how to make it interesting? Target examples of countries; target events; what types of mass communication tools should be used; what types of corporate collateral are available; updating of contact list; reach out to focal points through a survey how they would like to receive communication; use free analytical tools; build a timeline; guest blog; quality of a brochure. The aim is to present the socio-economic benefits of good land administration Further discussion on the next steps in the communication strategy need to be discussed. The task group will need to meet at the next bureau meeting to establish the new workplan for the group. It was discussed that the WPLA needs to discuss a branding strategy. A good example of a video is Sustainable Use of Land & Nature Partnership of the Urban Agenda: <https://youtu.be/y7eOZM1Qj5Y>
- 2.3.7 In addition, activities for the new PoW 2020-2021 were discussed and could potentially include, updating the LA guidelines; Future scenarios, openness of data benefits, open access, crowd sourcing; further work on gender equality in ownership rights to potentially build on the work done in the Balkans on SDG 5.a.2, and in the frame of the regional initiative “ Gender and Land Rights“ in the Western Balkan, is developed a guideline to make the work of the registration offices more gender sensitive. see attached report.

Item 3: The 11th Session of the WPLA

- 3.1 Bureau members gave their observations from the Session. There were 120 participants from 37 countries. There was a side event co-organized with UN-Habitat/GLTN on the afternoon of 28 February after the WPLA session ended on

*Land Indicators and data collection*¹. Further conversation with GLTN is needed to strengthen cooperation.

3.2 The WPLA will present its work since the CHLM session (October 2018) in Geneva in October 2019 including its Programme of Work 2020-2021 and the renewal of the mandate for the period 2021-2025 for approval.

Item 4: WPLA participation and Upcoming events

4.1 List of events:

- 2-4 September -12th Regional conference on cadastre and SDI of the Western Balkans, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- September 2019 - CLGE General Assembly
- 18-19 September 2019 - World Experience in Real Estate Registration: Achievements and Prospects“, Minsk, Belarus
- 18-20 September 2019 - “Digitally Enabled Development for a Sustainable Future in Eastern Europe“, Vrdnik <https://www.etnoselo-vk.rs/>
- 2-4 October 2019 - 80th Session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, Geneva
- 20-21 November 2019 - The Ecosystems of related to Real Estate Conveyancing Conference and Plenary Meeting of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC), Helsinki, Finland
- March 16-20, 2020 - Land and Poverty Conference 2019: Institutions for Equity and Resilience, Washington, DC
- April 2019 – NSDI: Towards Digital Society, Baku
- 10-14 May 2020 - FIG 2020 – Amsterdam
- 20-22 May 2020 - “How to assure rights of indigenous peoples and minorities” – Canada (Mont Tremblant)
- Potential workshops in Georgia and Sweden in 2020

Item 5: Other Business

5.1 As part of the programme of work and in collaboration with HMLR investigating the potential benefits and limitations of emerging technologies such as blockchain, etc. within the property transaction and registration process. This will be a helpful to assess where countries are going, what plans are on its usage and where they do not plan on using it. An invitation to participate will be sent to organization to join an international discussion group to share research. The first digital discussion group meeting will be held in September 2019. This initial discussion will then be followed by a series of showcases which will provide each registry the opportunity to demonstrate any blockchain trials or implementations that they have been working on.

Item 6: Next Bureau meeting

6.1 The Chair closed the meeting and the next bureau will take place on 29 August 2019 via webex.

¹ <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50205>