

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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

18 December 2019

10:00 – 11:30 (CET)

webex

Attendance:

Ms. Chryssy Potsiou, (Greece), Vice-chair

Ms. Elena Busch (Norway)

Ms. Kirsikka Riekkinen (Finland), Vice-chair

Mr. Gil Matoses (Spain)

Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist (Sweden), Chair

Ms. Victoria Abbott (United Kingdom)

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 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 was held 20-21 November 2019. The Chair of the WPLA presented the latest updates on the Scenarios study as well as the conclusions of the Fraud study (on behalf of Ms. Victoria Abbott as she could not travel to Helsinki). There was interest in the Fraud Study and there was a suggestion to further engage the private sector in the Future scenarios work.
- 2.1.2 The conference on NSDI: Towards Digital Society will be held in Baku 2-4 April 2020. Next steps are to work on the agenda with the other co-organizers, FAO, UN-GGIM, World Bank, UN-GGIM Europe and potentially the JRC and discuss logistics. The save the date will be sent before the end of 2019. The website for the conference: <http://emdk.gov.az/page/view/83> is available and registration is open.
- 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 reported on monthly meetings with the organizers to discuss the sessions that the WPLA will organize there are several names that have been proposed for the sessions as follows:

Session 1: “Urban Perspectives” (How are digital twinning and smart cities initiatives shaping urban land governance and urban social dynamics), **Pekka Halme**, Director of Strategic Development, National Land Survey of Finland: “3D land use plans, 3D building data, and 3D real estates in the cadastre to meet with the needs of people in the urban environment”; **Fredrik Zetterquist**, Chair of WPLA and University Lecturer at the University of Gävle, Sweden: “Stakeholder engagement through scenario study on future land administration and governance”

Session 2: “Environmental & Social Perspectives” (How is land governance evolving to address global sustainability and climate change) **Kåre Kyrkjeide**, Director of International Services, Norwegian Mapping Authority: “Norway Digital – easy access to geospatial data for informed decision-making and sustainable land management and planning”; **Peter Kreuzer**, Director State Survey and Geospatial Information, State Agency for Geoinformation and State Survey Lower Saxony (LGLN), State Survey and Geospatial Information State Agency Germany: “The role of land administration in support of sustainability - a paradigm shift”;

Session 3: “A National Framework for Land Administration Governance in Canada” (building a cohesive land governance community). Mick Cory, Secretary General and Executive Director of EuroGeographics: Title still not defined but the content is about European collaboration in cadastre, land registration and mapping, also covering the key European directives affecting those national bodies involved in land administration across geographic and political Europe

Indigenous perspective-Tenure facility

- 2.1.4 The workshop in Sweden in autumn 2020 on Education for LA is still in discussion. University of Gävle and University of Aalto might have interest in co-organizing.
- 2.1.5 The EG-LAM circulated the draft Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA), to member States for consultation in the beginning of 2020. The WPLA can contribute inputs to FELA and well as perhaps drafting some comments on its implementation in the UNECE region. These should be linked to the future scenarios work. If there are any inputs, please forward them to the secretariat in order to consolidate them and send them to UN-GGIM. The deadline for comments from the WPLA is **24 January 2020** if possible.

Land administration reviews:

- 2.2.1 The secretariat informed that the next Land Administration Review will be for Albania. Further information will be shared by the Committee in due course and the research and drafting of the Land Administration chapter will need to be coordinated by the WPLA bureau. Ms. Chryssy Potsiou has expressed interest in participating.

Studies:

- 2.3.1. Benchmarking of LA systems: The *Study on the Cost for Registration and Transfer of Real Estate and Registration of Mortgages in the UNECE Countries* has been updated since the Committee session. It was updated after the Committee Session on 4 October 2019 and the final version will be put to the webpage. It will be shared with the REM to inform the upcoming study on housing affordability. Perhaps a good idea to disseminate the study at the workshop in Baku in April 2020.
- 2.3.2 Fraud in LA systems: Ms. Victoria Abbott has requested for best practices from member States in order to complete the recommendations. She will draft an email to request the case studies and will send it to the secretariat for dissemination. It will be completed by early 2020.
- 2.3.3 Informal settlements: The guidelines had their final review by the secretariat and the authors, and the final draft text was sent for editing and layout. The first draft of the layout should be received by mid-January 2020 and the secretariat will share that with the authors for their review. There has been discussion to launch the publication at the Land and Poverty Conference in March 2019 and/or at FIG working week in Amsterdam in May 2020. In order to launch it during FIG WW a representative from UNECE would need to attend, currently there is no funding to send a representative. Alternative sources of funding are being considered.
- 2.3.4 Land consolidation: Still awaiting further information from FAO to see when the Guide will be launched. The Guide was presented at the LANDNET workshop in Galicia November 2019 but is still not published and it will still need to undergo language editing and graphical design. Thus, we do not yet have an exact date of publication. The TG will be closed when the study is finalized.
- 2.3.5 Scenarios for future land administration: There was a meeting in Helsinki in November 2019 on the fringes of the PCC conference to discuss further the study. There is a proposal for a consultation with relevant stakeholders to discuss how countries are looking into the future and how to use the scenarios has been moved to June 2020 to review and discuss a draft paper on future scenarios. The exact date is yet to be determined. After the consultation there will be an opportunity to revise and update the report. It was suggested that the preliminary findings could be presented in Bern in August 2010 at the Annual Meeting 2020 of FIG-Commission 7 and the launch perhaps at the 81st committee session in October 2020 or during the WPLA workshop in Sweden in Fall 2020. The current status of the study will be presented at the World Bank Land and Poverty conference in March. An abstract has been peer-reviewed and approved.

2.3.6 Outreach and Promotion: A communications survey will be sent out to focal points to see how and what they would like to receive news from the WPLA. The task group will need to meet at the next bureau meeting to establish the new workplan for the group. There was an idea to send out a newsletter to WPLA focal points with current activities and upcoming events.

2.3.3 Ms. Victoria Abbott gave an update on the on the survey of *Potential benefits and limitations of emerging technologies forum* the next forum will be held on 16 January 2020. A [link](#) to the survey for the topics to be discussed. An abstract was submitted to the Land and Poverty Conference 2020, there will be a masterclass held on Friday, 20 March 2020. Ms. Kirsikka Riekkinen and Ms. Chryssy Potsiou will also participate in the masterclass.

Proposed activities Programme of Work 2020-2021:

2.4.1 A Task Force has been established in collaboration with FIG Commission 7 on PPPs for Land Administration. Ms. Kirsikka Riekkinen is appointed as Chair; Mr. Peter Creuzer has agreed to review the study based on his experience with a similar publication [Guiding Principles for Public/Private Partnerships \(PPP\) in Land Administration](#).

2.4.2 The WPLA has been invited to be part of the Prindex advisory group, Ms. Chryssy Potsiou is the focal point, the first call of the Group was held on 18 November 2019 Ms. Potisou could not attend but submitted inputs. She will follow up with Mr. Malcolm Childress.

Item 3: The 12th Session of the WPLA

3.1.1 There was a proposal from Malta to host the 12th Session of the WPLA in March 2020. The secretariat will communicate with the focal point in Malta to discuss next steps. The Bureau members agreed that it would be a good idea to have the session in a member State other than Geneva.

3.1.2 The topics for the 12th session should already be discussed and can include PPPs for LA, future scenarios, etc.

Item 4: WPLA participation and Upcoming events

4.1 List of events:

- 8-13 February 2020 World Urban Forum 10, Abu Dhabi
- 16-20 March 2020 - Land and Poverty Conference 2019: Institutions for Equity and Resilience, Washington, DC
- 2-4 April 2019 – NSDI: Towards Digital Society, Baku
- 10-14 May 2020 - FIG 2020 Working Week, Amsterdam
- 19-22 May 2020 - “International and indigenous perspectives for sustainable land governance” – Mont Tremblant, Canada
- 30 August-5 September 2020 Annual Meeting 2020 of FIG-Commission 7, Bern, Switzerland
- Potential workshops in Sweden in Autumn 2020

Item 5: Other Business

- 5.1 There were several submissions to the World Bank conference in March 2020, confirmation have been received for the Masterclass on the IGIF implementation there will be a masterclass held on Friday, 20 March 2020.
- 5.2 Ms. Elena Busch will participate in FIG working week with a session on IGIF.
- 5.3 Fourth Regional workshop on IGIF to be held 7-11 September 2020 in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan which will be financed by Norwegian funded projects in Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine.

Item 6: Next Bureau meeting

- 6.1 The next bureau meeting will be held by webex and the secretariat will send out a poll to decide on the date the first week of February 2020.