

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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

19 November 2019

15:00 – 16:30 (EEST)

Helsinki, Finland

Attendance:

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

Mr. Konstantin Litvincev (Russian Federation)

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).

2.1.2 The workshop 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. Mr. Konstantin Litvincev has agreed to be the liaison from the bureau. The save the date will be sent before the end of 2019.

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 and to submit a list of speakers by **19 December 2019**, please send any

- suggestions for names as soon as possible. Sessions are as follows: Session 1: “Urban Perspectives” (How are digital twinning and smart cities initiatives shaping urban land governance and urban social dynamics), Session 2: “Environmental & Social Perspectives” (How is land governance evolving to address global sustainability and climate change) and Session 3: “A National Framework for Land Administration Governance in Canada” (building a cohesive land governance community).
- 2.1.4 The workshop in Sweden in autumn 2020 on Education for LA is still in discussion. University of Gavle and University of Aalto might have interest in co-organizing.
- 2.1.5 The EG-LAM will circulate 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.

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 finalized and put to the webpage. There was discussion to carry out the survey every two years to monitor the trends. Once it is finalized it will be shared with the REM to inform the upcoming study on housing affordability.
- 2.3.2 Fraud in LA systems: Ms. Victoria Abbott gave an update on the study and has requested for best practices from member States in order to complete the recommendations. It will be completed by early 2020. An abstract was submitted to the Land and Poverty Conference 2020.
- 2.3.3 Informal settlements: The guidelines had their final review by the secretariat and the authors, and the final draft will be sent for editing and layout. The publication will be submitted for print by the end of 2019. 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.
- 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 on 3 March 2020 to review and discuss a draft paper on future scenarios. The draft paper should be ready for review in January 2020. 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 Berna in August 2020 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.

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 from the WPLA. Some of the questions will need to be re-written before it is sent out so that the questions are clearer. 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 first call will be on 15 October 2019 and the next forum was to be held on 25 November and on 16 January 2020.

Proposed activities Programme of Work 2020-2021:

2.4.1 PPPs for Land Administration which Ms. Kirsikka Riekkinen will be the focal point, this is in collaboration with FIG commission 7; There was a request to contact Peter Creuzer and to bring him onboard for the study.

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

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.

3.1.3 There was a proposal from Ms. Chryssy Potsiou to do a workshop in Greece in 2021 as a follow to the TUFÉ conference 2018 as there will be a 200-year celebration of the TCC.

Item 4: WPLA participation and Upcoming events

4.1 List of events:

- 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 - “How to assure rights of indigenous peoples and minorities” – Canada (Mont Tremblant)
- 30 Aug. - 5 Sep. 2020 Annual Meeting 2020 of FIG-Commission 7 in 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 Fraud study, IGIF implementation and others to be confirmed.

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..