

## United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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

*17 January 2018*

*8:30 – 10:30 (EST)*

*The World Bank*

*Washington DC*

#### Attendance:

Ms. Mari Khardziani (Georgia)

Ms. Chryssy Potsiou (Greece)

Mr. Markku Markkula (Finland)

Mr. Rik Wouters (The Netherlands), Vice Chair

Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist (Sweden), Chair

Mr. Howard Bushell (United Kingdom)

#### **Observers**

Ms. Galina Kirichenko (Russian Federation)

#### **UNECE Secretariat**

Ms. Amie Figueiredo

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#### **Item 1: Opening and adoption of the agenda**

1.1 The Chair of the Working Party, Mr. Frederik 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 Joint Workshop of WPLA, FAO and LANDNET will be held 19 – 21 June 2018, Skopje, the FYR Macedonia “Best practices on land consolidation legislation”- Invitation has been sent, **deadline for registering is 20 May**, FARICOM is receiving the registrations; There will be a session on Gender and in the Western Balkans in cooperation with FAO and GIZ. AREC has not confirmed their participation in the workshop. There is some travel support available for participants from beneficiary countries.

2.1.2 Joint Conference of WPLA, FIG and Technical Chamber of Greece will be held in Athens from 7-9 November 2018. The theme of the meeting will be “Economy, Society and Climate Change - Current Trends and Solutions for the Built Environment, Construction Industry and Real Estate”. **The save the**

**date has been sent out. Request TG on cooperation with REM to see if the REM is interested in organizing a session.**

- 2.1.3 For 2019, Norway to host a workshop in May 2019 on key registers for the implementation of the SDGs & Canada to host a workshop with Surveyor General of State Lands Natural Resources Canada (Sector Lands and Minerals) and WPLA on “How to assure rights of indigenous peoples and minorities” in the autumn 2019. **To follow-up with a call on planning in May 2018.**
- 2.1.4 Fredrik Zetterquist presented the work of the WPLA at the Arab Land Conference in February 2018 in Dubai hosted by the Dubai Land Department and the Government of the United Arab Emirates in partnership with the World Bank, the Global Land Tool Network, UN-Habitat, the Arab League and the Arab Union of Surveyors. The next conference will be held in Jordan in 2019.
- 2.1.5 WPLA/UNGGIM cooperation: Rik Wouters gave an update on the UN-GGIM EG-LAM- Tenure Atlas; On Friday, 23 March in a special Side Event of the Land and Poverty Conference the results were presented. He requested if **any bureau members were interested in participating in the Framework for development of land administration systems project.** And discussions the possibilities to start a follow up project to bring the atlas at production level, upgrading the atlas software but also to reach a content of data that makes the atlas an instrument “fit-for-purpose”.
- 2.1.6 WPLA participation in the Common Vision was discussed. Some bureau members view the participation more as a pledge to work with the other organizations and that it sometimes can be more advantageous to work independently while other members see the Common Vision as an opportunity to strengthen cooperation with the other organisations. There were also proposals to modify the current agreement. The secretariat will send out a **poll to gauge the bureau’s position on joining the group, please respond as soon as possible.** Based on this Rik Wouters will communicate this to the Common Vision.
- 2.1.7 World Urban Forum took place in Kuala Lumpur, 8-13 February. Helge Onsrud presented on behalf of the WPLA during the Special session: Security of tenure, land market and segregation organized by the GLTN. The secretariat will send the presentation to the bureau.
- 2.1.8 Several other bureau members attended the WB Land and Poverty Conference, 19-23 March 2018, Washington DC.

Land administration reviews:

- 2.2.1 Land Administration for CP Belarus will be held 28 May – 8 June 2018 – Rik Wouters and Konstantin Litvintcev will participate in the mission and will write the chapter on land administration as a chapter in the Country Profile to be completed in 2018.
- 2.2.2. Bulgaria has request assistance in the digitization of their records. They intended to digitalize 95% by the end of 2018 and have requested that the

WPLA share best practices with them in order to achieve their goal by the end of the year.

Studies:

- 2.3.1. Benchmarking of LA systems: Group leader, Elena Busch was not available for the meeting but a scoping document was sent out to the bureau and a consultant has been contracted to carry out the work on the *Study on the Cost for Registration and Transfer of Real Estate and Registration of Mortgages in the UNECE Countries*.
- 2.3.2. Fraud in LA systems: The survey based on the old study should be sent out mid-2018 to focal points. The secretariat will send any information available from the previous study from 2011. The survey should be circulated to ELRA for their input and to assist in the dissemination. A face-to-face meeting is planned to discuss progress.
- 2.3.3. Informal settlements: The consultant has been working with Chryssy Potsiou and Rik Wouters on the guidelines. There have been several e-meetings to discuss the content and topics to be covered. There has been interest from UN-Habitat-GLTN, FAO, OHCHR and independent experts as well as the REM will review the publication.
- 2.3.4. Land consolidation: Group leader, Rik Wouters have an update on the workshop to be held in Skopje on 19-21 June 2018 in collaboration with FAO Landnet, and University of Munich are partners in the study, the work should be completed by end of summer 2018. The study contains 23 countries will participate, 19 narrators, with a list of land consolidation and legal frameworks in Europe.
- 2.3.5. Scenarios for future land administration: A roundtable will be organized on 15 June in Stockholm with 9 participants from different land agencies around the ECE region as well as a representative from the World Bank. The results of the study, i.e. definition of future scenarios based on the impact of global megatrends, will be used for preparation of a questionnaire for the UNECE member states to reflect on the results based on their respective local context. The combined results will be presented at the WPLA workshop in Athens in November.
- 2.3.6. WPLA/REM cooperation: Request the task group leader, **Beatriz Corredor to see if the REM would like to organize a session at the Workshop in Athens, they have good experts on property markets.** The Policy framework is currently being updated and they will ask the WPLA to comment and provide further inputs. The secretariat will share their PoW with the bureau.
- 2.3.7. Outreach and Promotion: TG had face-to-face meeting with the team from HMLR at the end of January 2018 and discussed possible tools to disseminate

the work of the WPLA. The secretariat was present by phone for the meeting. Mr. Howard Bushell, TG leader will be the focal point for the guiding the strategy. The strategy was disseminated to the bureau. **The WPLA LinkedIn page will be the primary method for dissemination but needs to be updated relevant information. There was discussion to have a printable brochure from the WPLA webpage. The TG members will send some proposals for new text for the brochure.**

### **Item 3: WPLA participation and Upcoming events**

- 3.1 [FIG Congress](#), Embracing our smart world where the continents connect: enhancing the geospatial maturity of societies, 6-11 May 2018, Istanbul. Ms. Chryssy Potsiou will attend as FIG president.
- 3.2 Eleventh Regional Conference on cadaster, June 2018 in Bulgaria Ms. Tanja Cenova explained the background: Regional conference where some 10 Balkan countries meet once a year to exchange experiences on land administration, registers, NSDI, etc.
- 3.3 The WPLA will present its work at the 79<sup>th</sup> CHLM session (4-5 October 2018).
- 3.4 PCC, Vienna, Austria, November 2018.
- 3.5 Marine cadaster – Brest.
- 3.6 FIG commission 7- Bergen, Norway, September 2018.
- 3.5 Suggestions of participation and outreach in coming events.

### **Item 4: Dates for the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the WPLA**

- 4.1 The 27-28 February 2019 will be the dates of the Session. The secretariat requested that the bureau think about what events, theme, etc. should be included in the Session. Preparations for the next session should begin in June 2018. Official documents need to be submitted by October 2018.

### **Item 5: Other Business**

- 5.1 IAAO – The vice-chair and the secretariat with IAAO, to discuss cooperation. IAAO works on land management and registration, property valuation. Looking at good governance and work with assessment and valuation offices and have helped initiate the cadastral systems in certain cases, both mapping and fiscal cadastres. They have worked with the UK, Sweden, Luxembourg, Kazakhstan, Slovenia, Germany in the UNECE region and the OECD champion mayors for inclusive growth, on topics such as circular economies, transition to a green economy, co-housing, HUD strategy 2018-2020, spatial planning, etc. They are participating in the REM and contributing to the condominium management guidelines that are being produced.

### **Item 6: Next Bureau meeting**

- 6.1 The Chair closed the meeting and the next bureau will take place via webex and the secretariat will send out a poll to determine the best date in May 2018. There will also be a bureau meeting on the margins of the CHLM 79<sup>th</sup> Session to be decided between 3-5 October 2018.