

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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

23 May 2018

10:00 – 12:00 (CET)

webex

Attendance:

Mr. Julius Ernst (Austria)

Ms. Mari Khardziani (Georgia)

Ms. Elena Busch (Norway)

Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist (Sweden), Chair

Mr. Howard Bushell (United Kingdom)

UNECE Secretariat

Ms. Amie Figueiredo

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 Mr. Rik Wouters gave a report on the Joint Workshop of WPLA, FAO and LANDNET was held 19 – 21 June 2018, Skopje, the FYR Macedonia “Best practices on land consolidation legislation”. Main topic on the legal framework for Land Consolidation (LC). The main researcher is Dr. Tomas Veršinskas from Lithuania, he expressed interest in presenting at the WPLA 11th session. The Minister of Agriculture welcomed the participants at the workshop and at the gala dinner. Ms. Tanja Cenova (presented on Gender-issue), Chryssy (presented on urban land consolidation), Ms. Mari Khardziani and Mr. Markku Markkula were also in attendance. Mr. Rik Wouters gave the farewell remarks to the participants on behalf of the WPLA/UNECE. WPLA was also interviewed by the national television and other press and we were able to speak to the Minister. There was a session on Gender and in the Western Balkans in cooperation with FAO and GIZ.

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 same the

date has been sent out in April 2018. The invitation to the event will be sent out early September 2018. **The logistics for the event need to be discussed, including, venue, registration, webpage, etc. 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. More information to be discussed at the next WPLA bureau meeting.
- 2.1.4 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 2020. It will be combined with their annual surveyors’ conference. Partners will be: WPLA, Provincial Surveyors, Land title registrars. IT will be a 3 days conference: 1 day specially for WPLA and 2 day for surveyors. Topics: First day up to WPLA to propose theme. For day 2 and 3: indigenous rights and cadastre reform. Location 100km north of Montreal in a ski resort (Mont Tremblant). Transportation will be arranged from airport. Specific dates to be announced. Welcome dinner paid by Canada.
- 2.1.5 WPLA/UNGGIM cooperation: Update on the UNGGIM and the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (EG LAM): 8th session of UN-GGIM was held at UN headquarters in NYC 1-2 August 2018. Mr. Rik Wouters represented the WPLA. A side event for EG LAM titled “Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Development in Land Administration” was held on Monday 30 July 2018. The secretariat will discuss with the UNECE Statistics Division to see what arrangements can be agreed upon. The EG-LAM meeting will be in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China, between 27 – 29 September. It is the next face-to-face meeting of the EG LAM together with an International Seminar on Land Administration. **Further discussion is needed to discuss the WPLA’s involvement in UN-GGIM as part of EG-LAM as well as the role in UN-GGIM Europe.**
- 2.1.6 The proposal that was submitted for a session at the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China from 19-21 November 2018 was accepted. Discussions on the merging of the session is ongoing. Confirmation of which WPLA member will attend is to be determined.
- 2.1.7 The 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 organizations. There were also proposals to modify the current agreement. For all **bureau members that have not yet responded to the [poll](#) please do so as soon as possible** so that it can be discussed at the next bureau meeting on 5 October 2018.

Land administration reviews:

- 2.2.1 Land Administration for CP Belarus was held 28 May – 8 June 2018 – Rik Wouters and a representative from Rosreestr participated in the mission and drafted 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. **They would like the WPLA in cooperation with the Bulgarian Cadastre to organize a workshop on 15 November 2018 in Sofia. They have asked the WPLA to identify speakers and develop the programme.**

Studies:

- 2.3.1. Benchmarking of LA systems: Group leader, Elena Busch was not available for the meeting but the *Study on the Cost for Registration and Transfer of Real Estate and Registration of Mortgages in the UNECE Countries*. Outcomes will be a joint project of SK, WPLA, ITC. The questionnaire will be ready for review by the end of August 2018. The secretariat will assist in setting up the online questionnaire and sending it out to focal points. Results are planned to be presented at the WPLA 11th session in February 2019.
- 2.3.2 Fraud in LA systems: A new TG leader must be nominated with the departure of Mr. Howard Bushell. The survey needs finalized and sent to focal points. The date and next steps need to be determined. The survey should be circulated to ELRA for their input and to assist in the dissemination.
- 2.3.3 Informal settlements: There is a draft of the guidelines that were reviewed by FAO and comments are being integrated. A draft of the Guidelines will be presented at the CHLME 70th Session in October. The plan is for the guidelines to be finalized and printed in time for the WPLA 11th Session. Chryssy Potsiou and Rik Wouters have been working closely with the consultant on the guidelines. There have been several e-meetings to discuss the content and topics to be covered. The publication will be reviewed by UN-Habitat-GLTN, FAO, OHCHR and independent experts as well as the REM.
- 2.3.4 Land consolidation: Group leader, Rik Wouters and University of Munich will finalize the study, the work should be completed by end of summer 2018. It will be presented at the CHLM 79th Session in October 2018.
- 2.3.5 Scenarios for future land administration: A roundtable was organized on 15 June in Stockholm with 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 definition and narratives of the scenarios are still in the process of being amended. Next steps are being discussed, i.e. how land agencies stay relevant, liable and trustworthy (while transforming). 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 and the guidelines on condominium management were circulated to the WPLA bureau for review and comment.
- 2.3.7 Outreach and Promotion: A new TG leader must be nominated with the departure of Mr. Howard Bushell. 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, next steps in the communication strategy need to be discussed at the next bureau meeting. **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 List of events:

- FIG commission 7- Bergen, Norway, September 2018
- 4-5 October 2018 – CHLM 79th Session - Geneva
- 5 October 2018 – 14:00 – 17:00 WPLA bureau meeting - Geneva
- 7-9 November 2018 - WPLA, FIG and Technical Chamber of Greece - Athens
- 15 November 2018 – Workshop on Cadastre – Sofia, Bulgaria
- 19-21 November 2018 – United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) – Deqing, China
- 21 November 2018 – PCC meeting – Austria
- 27-28 February 2019 - WPLA 11th Session – Geneva
- 25-29 March 2019 - WB Land and Poverty conference, Washington
- 22-26 April 2019 - FIG Working Week, Vietnam
- May 2019 – WPLA workshop – Norway
- Autumn 2019 – Joint PCC/WPLA meeting – Finland
- Spring 2020 – Canada (Mont Tremblant) PCC, Vienna, Austria, November 2018

Item 4: Dates for the 11th 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. **Bureau elections will also be held during this session.** Those bureau members that plan on continuing the bureau will need to obtain letters of support from their organizations. The bureau can also accept

new nominations for bureau members, these will need to be submitted to the secretariat and then confirmed by the respective missions in Geneva. Preparations for the next session should begin in September 2018. Official documents need to be submitted by October 2018.

Item 5: Other Business

5.1 It was discussed how to further promote the work of the WPLA, including workshops and contributions to events. This is to be further discussed at the next bureau meeting.

Item 6: Next Bureau meeting

6.1 The Chair closed the meeting and the next bureau will take place on the margins of the CHLM 79th Session on 5 October 2018 from 13:00-17:00.