

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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

7 November 2018

16:00 – 19:00 (EEST)

Eugenides Foundation

Athens, Greece

Attendance:

Mr. Markku Markkula (Finland)

Ms. Mari Khardziani (Georgia)

Ms. Chryssy Potsiou (Greece)

Mr. Rik Wouters (The Netherlands), Vice-chair

Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist (Sweden), Chair

Ms. Tanja Cenova (FYR Macedonia)

Ms. Victoria Abbott (United Kingdom)

Observer:

Helge Onsrud (Norway)

Paul Vanasperen (Consultant)

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 A brief update was given on the 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”. There will be a REM session on the morning of 8 November and Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist will give opening remarks of behalf of the WPLA.

2.1.2 The workshop to be held in May 2019 in Norway on key registers for the implementation of the SDGs in Norway has been canceled. There was a potential proposal for a workshop to be held in the UK in Late May/June 2019, jointly with Ordnance Survey and HMLR. Further discussions are

- needed within the two organizations and the proposal will be discussed at the next WPLA bureau meeting. Finland's interest in hosting a Joint PCC/WPLA meeting in fall 2019, date to be confirmed.
- 2.1.3 All seems to be on track for the workshop on "How to assure rights of indigenous peoples and minorities" in the spring 2020 in Canada.
- 2.1.4 Regarding the EG-LAM work, this link provides the documentation for the UNGGIM workshop in Deqing organized by the Expert group Land administration and Management: <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/2018-Deqing-Expert-Group/>. Rik Wouters had discussed at the previous bureau meeting the proposals to create a new framework for LA, including six pillars. It was suggested to submit directly to NY the frameworks that already exist and the opinions on whether a new framework is needed. Fredrik Zetterquist will attend the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in Deqing, China, 19-21 November 2018 and present on the Fit-for-Future land administration. Further discussions on how to work better with UN-GGIM in a more coordinated way with UNECE were discussed. The secretariat will discuss with the UNECE statistics department on how to better coordinate communication regarding meetings and general information exchange.
- 2.1.5 The WPLA participation in the Common Vision agreement was discussed. Rik Wouters is to speak to Maurice Barbieri at the PCC meeting in November 2018 to see the interest in signing a MoU.

Land administration reviews:

- 2.2.1 No further updates on the requests for LARs for 2019, awaiting more feedback from the CHLM.
- 2.2.2 Rik Wouters in consultation with the Bulgarian Cadastre, Violeta Koritarova (Director GCCA) regarding request to WPLA to make experts available for technical assistance (TA). It was specified that limited support by WPLA is possible and that more intensive TA must be financed by other means. The discussion was:
- a) formation of strategy how to complete the land register data and map.
Backlog is considerable and no clear vision how to complete the remaining work. Link with Ministry of Justice (responsible for land registration) is not foreseen but relevant (if not crucial) when drafting a comprehensive future strategy.
 - b) defining a project proposal to apply financial support/subsidy from the EU Commission in Brussels. EU TAIEX program advised for first round of support. Helge Onsrud (Norway) would also be a good candidate.

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*. A meeting was held with the consultant working on the questionnaire on the margins of the Athens Conference. The survey has been updated in SurveyMonkey based on the discussions. The questionnaire is to

be sent out by the end of November. Results are planned to be presented at the WPLA 11th session in February 2019.

- 2.3.2 Fraud in LA systems: The questionnaire is nearly ready to be sent out, there was a question regarding the definition of fraud that still needs to be addressed and then the questionnaire can be sent to the focal points. The TG will be closed when the study is finalized.
- 2.3.3 Informal settlements: The publication was sent and reviewed by UN-Habitat-GLTN, FAO, OHCHR and independent experts as well as the REM. There were some comments received from the REM members, they are currently being reviewed/incorporated. The executive summary and recommendations will need to be submitted to as an official document for approval at the WPLA 11th session, **the deadline for submission is 30 November 2018**. The plan is for the guidelines to be finalized and printed in time for the WPLA 11th Session.
- 2.3.4 Land consolidation: Group leader, Rik Wouters and University of Munich will finalize the study (narrative) and it will be presented as an official document at the 11th WPLA session. The legal framework part will be presented as an information document at the 11th session. The TG will be closed when the study is finalized.
- 2.3.5 Scenarios for future land administration: A roundtable will be organized in Amsterdam on 18 December 2018 to continue the discussions started in the June 2018 roundtable. The summary of progress will be submitted in an official document and presented at the 11th WPLA session.
- 2.3.6 WPLA/REM cooperation: This TG will be closed as of the 11th session as there does not seem to be a need to have another group dedicated to it.
- 2.3.7 Outreach and Promotion: Possible tools to disseminate the work of the WPLA, next steps in the communication strategy need to be further discussed at the next bureau meeting. It was discussed that the WPLA needs to discuss a branding strategy, it would be good to have some updated text by the 11th session. The WPLA LinkedIn page will be the primary method for dissemination but needs to be updated relevant information and should be up and running by the 11th session.

Item 3: The 11th Session of the WPLA

- 3.1 The session dates are 27-28 February 2019. The secretariat requested that the bureau members suggest speakers for the two keynote sessions on: **Transforming Land Administration & Land governance, the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda**.
- 3.2 Suggestions were given for speakers in: Blockchain from governance perspective; PPPs, etc. It was also suggested to produce some sort of

communication on the link land governance has in the 2030 Agenda and the other relevant agendas.

- 3.3 The secretariat requested if there was a possibility of sponsorship for travel of participants, the reception or coffee breaks available. Please let the secretariat know as soon as possible.
- 3.4 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 and send them to the secretariat by **30 November 2018**. 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.
- 3.5 The secretariat will send for review the official documents for review, they need to be submitted by end of November 2018.

Item 4: WPLA participation and Upcoming events

4.1 List of events:

- 3 December 2018 - Smart Land Administration, Helsinki
- 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
- TBC – May/June 2019 – WPLA workshop – UK
- November 2019 - Joint CVC conference – Finland
- Spring 2020 – Canada (Mont Tremblant)
- 10-14 May 2020 - FIG 2020 - Amsterdam

Item 5: Other Business

- 5.1 Several bureau members have submitted abstracts for the next Land & Poverty Conference in Washington DC, 25-29 March 2019. Awaiting responses from the WB.
- 5.2 There were discussions with UN-Habitat on how to better cooperate with the GLTN. Fredrik Zetterquist will liaise with Oumar Sylla/Asa Jonsson from the GLTN/UN-Habitat to see where there may be synergies.

Item 6: Next Bureau meeting

- 6.1 The Chair closed the meeting and the next bureau will take place via webex 17 December 2017, the time will be announced by email.