

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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

20 April 2017

14:00 - 18:00 (CET)

Swiss Convention Center

Lausanne, Switzerland

Attendance:

Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist (Sweden), Chair
Mr. Rik Wouters (The Netherlands), Vice-Chair
Mr. Julius Ernst (Austria)
Mr. Markku Markula (Finland)
Ms. Roberta Marconi (Italy)
Ms. Chryssy Potsiou (Greece)
Ms. Elena Busch (Norway)
Mr. Konstantin Litvintcev (Russian Federation)
Ms. Tatjana Cenova (The FYR Macedonia)
Ms. Beatriz Corredor (Spain)
Mr. Howard Bushell (United Kingdom)

Observers

Ms. Galina Kirichenko (Russian Federation)
Mr. Darko Crenkovski (The FYR Macedonia)

UNECE Secretariat

Ms. Amie Figueiredo

Item 1: Opening and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair of the Working Party, Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist, opened the meeting.
2. The Chair invited the bureau to make any amendments to the agenda. No amendments were introduced.

Item 2: 10th WPLA Session, 8-9 March 2017

3. The bureau members gave their comments and suggestions on the 10th Session. Bureau members concluded that the content of the session was well received and that it overall was a successful session. It was proposed to have a 1-day session rather than a 2-day session for the 11th session in spring 2019. It was commented the report of the session was well done and a good summary of the meeting.

Item 3: Strategic aspects

4. The bureau discussed several questions on the strategy for the WPLA.
 - a. It was discussed to pull together a history of the WPLA starting from MOLA in 1996, formal WPLA in 1999, the guidelines produced in 1996 & 2005 to the present. A timeline is being put together for the CHLM 70th anniversary, which will include some of the activities of the WPLA.
 - b. It was discussed how the WPLA is perceived by the external community and how the bureau would like to promote it in the future, taking into account the anticipated categories) of recipients/beneficiaries. There was discussion to develop a concerted message that the entire bureau can adhere to when speaking about the work of the WPLA. Besides the fact that WPLA is covering a particular region, it was articulated that WPLA also is distinguished from other organizations in that its work encompasses a more holistic perspective, covering both land administration and land management. It was suggested that this characteristics should form the basis when formulating a common message and also when designing strategies and activities in the future. This view also underpins the suggestion that the work should address the broad and global initiatives, especially 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, including indicators and methodology. The secretariat to send out a list of the SDGs and targets related to land.
 - c. The WPLA/MOLA was originally a forum of top executives in land administration and now the audience more consists of sector-related experts. One of the reasons behind this shift is that there now are more organizations engaged in land administration, which also attract the attention of high-level officials' limited time dedicated for these fora. The long-term aspiration for WPLA is to increase the interest of high-level officials and politicians to join WPLA fora.
 - d. There was a proposal to reinstate reports on the workshops. Further discussion needs to be held as to the format, i.e. whether they should be more of a resolution or recommendations from the workshops. In addition, given financial and technical resources allow, the suggested ambition is to have the workshops webcasted to attract a larger audience.
 - e. A number of suggested areas of work was discussed: How to use geospatial information and statistical information for emergency response; how to tackle fraud and technology; trust in public authorities; security of property rights; title survey insurance; future trends in land administration and land management, etc. More topics will be elaborated at the next bureau meeting and task groups defined accordingly.

- f. The WPLA will elaborate a communication strategy and will further discuss at the next bureau meeting.
- g. The secretariat will send to the bureau the newly approved terms of reference for WPLA.

Item 4: Programme of work 2018-2019 and remaining activities from PoW 2016-2017 including the Work of Task Groups

5. Workshops:

- a. Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist will meet with Mika Törhönen from WB to discuss further a round table on “Future Land Administration” in October 2017. The outcomes of the roundtable could be the topic for a workshop in March 2018.
- b. Common Vision Conference, Vienna, 5 - 6 October 2017:
 - i. Mr. Julius Ernst presented the joint event on Cadastre and Land Registry organized by the BEV including the participation of WPLA, Eurogeographics, PCC, FIG. A festive event will be held on the 4 October with 250 participants and then the workshop will receive 100 to 120 participants. The topic is «Tradition meets innovation». He requested that the bureau send proposals for the topic of the sessions and for speakers. More information will come up within next weeks.
 - ii. There was a proposal to have session on security and trust during the conference.
- c. Bureau is to explore other potential options for workshops in 2018 with the bureau: some proposals are Canada, Greece and Stockholm. Topics include Property markets and could be in cooperation with the World Bank.

6. Studies:

- a. It was discussed the future studies on land administration systems need to answer very specific questions and the audience needs to be identified. Further discussion is needed as to which questionnaires/surveys are to be carried out as part of the POW. The secretariat will send out the previous list of survey topics.
- b. Land consolidation developments in the last 20 years is a topic of interest. The University of Munch and Dr. Walter de Vries is still very much interested in collaboration on this topic. The Netherlands and Georgia could be potential case studies. Mr. Rik Wouters will contact Dr. de Vries to discuss a scoping document for the research.
- c. Guidelines on informal settlements for the UNECE region: a meeting with Ms. Chryssy Potsiou, UN-Habitat and Dr. Orna Rosenfeld was held after the WPLA session to talk about next steps for the

elaboration of the technical guidelines. Next steps are to: identify examples of useful guidelines and share with the group, identify the core group of experts and the composition of the review body and the role of each, updating the timeline for the production of the TGs; send proposals for names of consultants that could draft the TGs and propose the table of contents for the TGs. It was discussed to have a follow-up meeting in June 2017.

7. The secretariat will also send out the REM action plan as discussed for the bureau to review and give inputs as to what activities are feasible.
8. The secretariat will follow-up with Mr. Peter Creuzer on the guidelines on Land Administration Reviews document he is helping draft to see where it stands.
9. The Country Profile for Kazakhstan is in the process of being finalized which includes a land administration review, the final version will go to the CHLM for approval in November but an executive summary will be available in June 2017 for the Expo in Astana.
10. There was a request from the government of Bulgaria for a land administration review, the procedure now is that it is part of the country profile review; this has been proposed to the CHLM for approval and communicated to the government. The funding for the country profile has not been identified.
11. The secretariat will send the list of the composition of the previous task groups in order to decide how they should be updated in order to divide the work of the bureau efficiently.

Item 5: Competence profiles and networks

12. The following members are engaged in other organization: Mr. Rik Wouters (EULIS, UN-GGIM EG LAM); Ms. Chryssy Potsiou (FIG); Mr. Julius Ernst (Eurogeographics CLRKEN); Mr. Roberta Marconi (PCC; ELRA).
13. Bureau members are reminded to send to the secretariat their CV, short bio and photo.

Item 6: Work with international organizations

14. There were discussion on how to collaborate with other organizations taking into account their respective vision/mandate/profile. There was discussion on clarifying the WPLA role with UN-GGIM, to follow-up with UN-GGIM Europe as well as in global in NY.
15. Discussions on exploring further potential collaboration with the GLTN and other organizations.

Item 7: Updates on WPLA participation in international events

16. Bureau members reported on their participation in the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference, 20-24 March 2017 in Washington DC. Feedback that

overall, the sessions were good but some of the presentations were misplaced with the sessions.

17. The Third International Conference on Eurasian SDI: "From National to Regional Cooperation" (29 - 30 June 2017), Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist and Ms. Elena Busch will attend. The event is co-organized by WPLA, the Kyrgyz land agency and the World Bank.
18. FIG Working Week, 29 May - 2 June 2017, Helsinki, Finland
19. UN-GGIM: Europe Fourth Plenary Meeting 7-8 June 2017 Brussels, Belgium
20. UN-GGIM: Seventh Session of UN-GGIM2-4 August 2017 New York
21. PCC meeting November 2017 Estonia

Item 8: Other business

22. There were no other matters raised.

Item 9: Next Bureau meeting

23. The Chair closed the meeting and reminded the bureau that the next bureau meeting will take place on Thursday, 27 June at the BEV, Vienna, Austria from 9:30-5:30pm. Mr. Julius Ernst offered to have a dinner the previous evening on Monday, 26 June, more details to be sent in advance of the meeting.
24. The following bureau meeting was proposed to be held on the afternoon 4 October, to be confirmed.