

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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

*23 April 2021
10:00 – 11:00 (CEST)
WebEx*

Attendance:

Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist (Sweden), Chair
Mr. Andrey Filipenko (Belarus)
Ms. Kirsikka Riekkinen (Finland), Vice-Chair
Ms. Mari Khardziani (Georgia)
Ms. Elena Busch (Norway)
Mr. Konstantin Litvincev (Russian Federation)
Mr. Gil Matoses (Spain)
Ms. Victoria Abbott (United Kingdom)

Observer:

Ms. Alena Kasyanenko (Belarus)
Ms. Valentina Radke (Russian Federation)

UNECE Secretariat

Ms. Amie Figueiredo

Item 1: Opening and adoption of the agenda

The Chair of the Working Party, Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist, opened the meeting. The Bureau adopted the report of the previous meeting with one amendment. The Bureau then adopted the agenda.

Item 2: Programme of Work 2020-2021, including the work of Task Groups and status on actions

Studies on selected topics in land management

- 2.1.1 **PPPs in Land Administration study** – The WPLA will consider endorsing the study at its twelfth session.
- 2.1.2 **Fraud in Land Administration** – The WPLA will consider endorsing the study at its twelfth session.
- 2.1.3 **COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region** – The information document (complete draft Action Plan) will be circulated for review and approval to the bureau after its next meeting in April before the secretariat submits it to the Working Party for endorsement at its twelfth session.

- 2.1.4 **Prindex study - Security of Property Rights in UNECE region: Comparative Report: An assessment of perceived tenure security for land and housing property among UNECE countries** –The bureau was informed that Prindex will revised and redraft the report based on the comments provided to Prindex by the WPLA. We are awaiting the new draft form review.

Capacity-building and international knowledge sharing:

- 2.2.1 **Planning for a series of WPLA-FAO joint webinars on “Land Administration during COVID-19”** – The second webinar was held on 15 April 2021 with attendance of close to 60 participants. The secretariat updated the Bureau on the planning for the third webinar which will be held on 11 May and will be led by the Russian Federation. The webinars are organized jointly with FAO, on the following topics (i) accelerated digitalization (country lead: UK, Victoria Abbott), (ii) COVID-19 and the effects on the property market (country lead: Norway, Elena Busch) and (iii) NSDI, geospatial data and technology and response to COVID-19 and the role of geospatial and cadastre agencies (country lead: Russian Federation, Konstantin Litvintsev). The above-mentioned bureau members will also summarize key conclusions and learnings from the webinars to inform the discussion under item 2 of the provisional agenda of the twelfth session of the Working Party. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions from the participants as to what further topics might be of interest for future webinars. A proposal to use Slido to gather these answers.

Item 3: Twelfth session of the WPLA

- 3.1.1 Malta still has not come back with the Host Country Agreement yet as there is still some uncertainty with the COVID-19 pandemic safety measures so the decision on we there to move the Session to Geneva will be taken at the end of April 2021.
- 3.1.2 **Scenario Study on Future Land Administration** - During the twelfth session, the Working Party will be invited to discuss this draft study, including the methodology, the scenarios and the self-assessment questionnaire. Including a series of interactive polls to engage the participants. The Chair will send a list of the draft questions through Mentimeter for the bureau to review and propose any additions. The WPLA will consider endorsing the study at its twelfth session.
- 3.1.3 **Planning for the thematic discussions during the session** – The secretariat presented an updated draft of the detailed programme of the twelfth session of the Working Party, in particular speakers for items 2 “Land administration during the COVID-19 pandemic” and 3 “Review of scenarios for future land administration” need to be urgently identified. The secretariat updated the detailed planning in the light of the discussion and will reshare it with the Bureau for discussion at its next meeting.
- 3.1.4 **Election of the WPLA Bureau for term 2021-2023** – The following are the nominations received for the term 2021-2023. Permanent missions to the UN in Geneva were sent the received nominations for the election for confirmation of the Bureau at the twelfth session of the Working Party.

- Ms. Kirsikka Riekkinen, Finland (Vice-Chair)
- Mr. Filippo Cadamuro, Italy
- Ms. Mari Khardziani, Georgia
- Mr. Dimitris Rokos, Greece
- Ms. Tatjana Cenova Mitrevska, North Macedonia
- Ms. Elena Busch, Norway
- Mr. Konstantin Litvintcev, Russian Federation
- Ms. Pilar Verdejo García-Goyeneche, Spain
- Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist, Sweden (Chair)
- Ms. Victoria Abbott, United Kingdom (Vice-Chair)

Item 4: Upcoming events and WPLA participation

4.1 Events:

- 31 May and 1 June 2021 - WPLA 12th Session – Valletta, Malta (hybrid)
- 21-25 June 2021 – The Role of the Geospatial Information in Responding to Crises and Accelerating the Progress on Achieving the SDGs - Joint FAO-FIG-UNSD/UN-GGIM-UNECE-World Bank Session - FIG e-Working Week 2021
- 21-25 June 2021 – Launch of the Post COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region - FIG e-Working Week 2021
- October 2021 - Workshop on education on land administration – Gävle, Sweden (hybrid)
- 4 & 6 October 2021 – In Focus: SDG11 - Geneva, Switzerland
- 6 - 7 October 2021 – UNECE Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management on “Affordable, adequate, and resilient housing in livable cities, including cities which face extreme weather conditions” – Geneva, Switzerland
- 8 October 2021 – 82nd session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management – Geneva, Switzerland
- May 2023 – National Surveyors Conference - Mont-Tremblant, Canada

Item 5: Any other business

- 5.1 The secretariat will provide Ms. Elena Busch a summary of Norway’s past involvement in the WPLA for her meeting with the Norwegian Permanent mission on the 7 May 2021.

Item 6: Next Bureau meeting

- 6.1 The next Bureau meeting is proposed to take place during the second half of May in advance of the WPLA 12th session. Exact date and time are suggested to be determined by doodle poll.