

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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

25 March 2021
10:00 – 12:00 (CET)
WebEx

Attendance:

Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist (Sweden), Chair
Ms. Chryssy Potsiou (Greece), Vice-Chair
Mr. Andrey Filipenko (Belarus)
Ms. Mari Khardziani (Georgia)
Mr. Bakytbek Djusupbekov (Kyrgyzstan)
Ms. Elena Busch (Norway)
Mr. Konstantin Litvincev (Russian Federation)
Ms. Victoria Abbott (United Kingdom)

Observer:

Ms. Alena Kasyanenko (Belarus)
Ms. Galina Kirichenko (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 secretariat has submitted the official document to the WPLA for approval at its twelfth session. Based on the discussion, the study was revised, shared and approved electronically by the Bureau and submitted by the secretariat as official document to the WPLA for consideration at its twelfth session.
- 2.1.2 **Fraud in Land Administration** – Ms. Victoria Abbott updated the Bureau on the finalization of the study. This included reflecting good practices examples from a recent survey among WPLA focal points in the study as well as information on a new electronic ID standard in the UK. The final draft study is planned to be

reviewed and approved by the Bureau at its next meeting. Following the Bureau's approval, the study will be submitted as information document to the WPLA for consideration at its twelfth session.

- 2.1.3 **COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region** – The secretariat has submitted the official document to the WPLA for approval at its twelfth session. 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 invited to review and give comments on the draft shared by the secretariat. For discussion with the Prindex team drafting the report. The WPLA will receive a revised draft of the study based on the comments provided to Prindex.

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 first webinar was held on 22 March 2021 with attendance of close to 60 participants. The secretariat updated the Bureau on the planning for the second webinar based on the revised concept note, including confirmed speakers. The third and remaining webinar 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 Litvincev). 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.

Item 3: Twelfth session of the WPLA

- 3.1.1 The invitations for the Session have been sent to national focal points, Permanent missions to the UN in Geneva and to the email database. 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 for the period of the session.
- 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. Discussion will be organized in breakout groups based on the

official document on the draft Scenario Study. The Bureau will be invited to review the complete draft Study at its next meeting, to be submitted as information document to the 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. Bureau members were invited to propose speakers.
- 3.1.4 **Election of the WPLA Bureau for term 2021-2023** – The Bureau members are requested to indicate whether they would like to be considered as Vice-Chair for the next term of the Bureau. Permanent missions to the UN in Geneva and national focal points were sent the received nominations for the election of the Bureau at the twelfth session of the Working Party.

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)
- TBC 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 None discussed.

Item 6: Next Bureau meeting

- 6.1 The next Bureau meeting is proposed to take place during the second half of April. Exact date and time are suggested to be determined by doodle poll.