

## United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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

*26 February 2021  
10:00 – 12:00 (CET)  
WebEx*

#### **Attendance:**

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

#### **Observer:**

Mr. Dzianis Zhukau and Ms Alena Kasyanenko (Belarus)  
Ms. Galina Kirichenko (Russian Federation)

#### **UNECE Secretariat**

Ms. Maike Salize  
Ms. Gulnara Roll  
Ms. Amie Figueiredo

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#### **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 draft study had been shared with the Bureau prior to the meeting for consideration. Ms. Kirsikka Riekkinen presented the draft study. The main findings of the study include that overall, the guiding principles from the 2005 Study on PPP in LA remain valid. However, a few new developments were identified through the results of a survey among WPLA focal points, including specific legislation on PPP in LA; the lengths of PPP contracts; risk sharing; and security measures. The Bureau considered the draft. 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 that was launched the week after the Bureau meeting. 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.

#### 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 secretariat updated the Bureau on the planning of a series of three webinars. 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 secretariat updated the Bureau on the status of invited speakers. Bureau members taking the lead in a webinar agreed to provide the secretariat with a short description of the content and guiding questions for discussion. They would 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 **Review of the Programmes of work 2018-2019 and 2020-2021** - The secretariat presented the draft review of the Programmes of Work. The draft document had been shared with the Bureau prior to the meeting. The Bureau approved the draft document without changes and requested the secretariat to finalize it for submission to the twelfth session of the Working Party.
- 3.1.2 **Scenario Study on Future Land Administration** - The secretariat presented the elements of the official document on the Scenario Study on Future Land Administration document (including introduction, objective, listing of megatrends and drivers, Scenarios, Guiding principles and Self-assessment framework) to the Bureau for comments. The draft official document was then circulated to the Bureau for digital approval and submitted by the secretariat to the Working Party for endorsement at its twelfth session.

The Bureau had reviewed and approved an earlier draft of the Scenario Study at its meeting on 4 September 2020. This draft had then been then revised based on the comments received by Bureau members, edited and shared as interim report

with the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management for its consideration.

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, to be submitted as information document to the twelfth session, at its next meeting.

- 3.1.3 Planning for the thematic discussions during the session** – The secretariat presented a draft of the detailed programme of the twelfth session of the Working Party, in particular items 2 “Land administration during the COVID-19 pandemic” and 3 “Review of scenarios for future land administration” of the provisional agenda. The draft programme was based on a previous discussion of the Bureau in preparation of the session. The Bureau reviewed the draft programme. The secretariat updated the detailed planning in the light of the discussion and shared it with the Bureau. Bureau members were invited to propose speakers. The Bureau agreed that speakers could also include private sector representatives. The Bureau further noted that, depending on the format of the session (hybrid or online only), the programme might need to be revised.
- 3.1.4 Election of the WPLA Bureau for term 2021-2023** – Bureau members who would like to be part of the WPLA Bureau during the next term 2021-2023, were invited to send letters of nomination from their supervisors to the secretariat. The secretariat updated the Bureau on nomination letters received. It also requested Bureau members to indicate whether they would like to be considered as Vice-Chair for the next term of the Bureau. The deadline for submission of nomination letters was 28 February. As next step, WPLA focal points and Permanent missions to the UN in Geneva will be invited to send 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 (pending confirmation) - 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 (pending confirmation) - FIG e-Working Week 2021
- October 2021 - Workshop on education on land administration – Gävle, Sweden (hybrid)
- 5 October 2021 – In Focus: SDG11 - Geneva, Switzerland

- 6 and 7 October 2021 – UNECE Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management on “Affordable, adequate, and resilient housing in liveable 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 (postponed in 2020) - Mont-Tremblant, Canada

**Item 5: Any other business**

- 5.1 The Chair announced that the temporary assignment of Ms. Maïke Salize in the Housing and Land Management unit came to an end. As of 1 March, Ms. Amie Figueiredo returned to her post and took over the position as Secretary again.

**Item 6: Next Bureau meeting**

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