

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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

*27 January 2021
10:00 – 12:00 (CET)
WebEx*

Attendance:

Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist (Sweden), Chair
Ms. Kirsikka Riekkinen (Finland), Vice-Chair
Ms. Chryssy Potsiou (Greece), Vice-Chair
Mr. Konstantin Litvincev (Russian Federation)
Mr. Gil Matoses (Spain)
Ms. Victoria Abbott (United Kingdom)

Guest:

Mr. Steven Nystrom, Lead author COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan

Observer:

Ms. Galina Kirichenko (Russian Federation)

UNECE Secretariat

Ms. Maike Salize
Ms. Gulnara Roll

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 and 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 COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region – Ms. Chryssy Potsiou and Mr. Steven Nystrom, lead authors of the Recovery Plan, presented the draft to the Bureau. The Bureau welcomed the preparation of this Recovery Action Plan. It agreed to review and approve the final draft at its next meeting.

2.1.2 PPPs in Land Administration study - Ms. Kirsikka Riekkinen informed the Bureau that an initial draft of the study will be available for the Bureau's consideration at its next meeting. This Bureau will be invited to comment on the

draft prior to the finalization of the study and its submission as an official document to the WPLA for consideration at its twelfth session.

- 2.1.3 **Fraud in Land Administration** – Ms. Victoria Abbott informed the Bureau that she was preparing a survey for WPLA focal points to collect case studies for possible inclusion in the study. Due to the sensitivity of the topic, the Bureau decided not to organize a webinar on this topic. Instead case studies will be requested through a survey. Following the meeting, the survey was prepared and disseminated by the secretariat. The responses were shared with Ms. Abbott for possible inclusion in the revised draft study.

Capacity-building and international knowledge sharing:

- 2.2.1 **Planning for a workshop “Education for Land Administration” (Gavle, Sweden, October 2021)** – The Bureau noted the importance to establish closer links between WPLA and universities. In the light of the discussion on the future Programme of Work 2022-2023, it was also noted that the thematic focus of this workshop should be broadened to also cover management of geospatial data. Konstantin Litvincev expressed interest of the Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography (MIIGAiK - <http://www.miigaik.ru/eng>) to contribute to the workshop.
- 2.2.2 **Planning for a series of webinars on COVID-19 impact and response in the land sector**, in preparation of the twelfth session – The Bureau reviewed the list of proposed webinars. It was agreed to organize three webinars, namely on (i) accelerated digitalization, (ii) COVID-19 and the effects on the property market and (iii) NSDI, geospatial data and technology and response to COVID-19 and the role of geospatial and cadastre agencies; taking place on a monthly basis between mid-March and mid-May 2021. Based on the discussion, the secretariat updated the concept note, including the table of webinars, included names of proposed/approached speakers and shared the file with FAO (Ms. Rumyana Tonchovska) for information and requested her to approach speakers from suggested countries.

Item 3: Twelfth session of the WPLA

- 3.1.1 **Preliminary agenda** - The secretariat presented the draft preliminary agenda for the twelfth session. The Bureau discussed in particular the planning for the two thematic agenda items, namely item 2 on Land administration during the COVID-19 pandemic and item 3 on Review of scenarios for future land administration. A proposal for the detailed programme would be prepared by the secretariat for the Bureau’s consideration at the next meeting. Following the discussion, the Bureau reviewed and approved the draft provisional agenda by electronic decision making and requested the secretariat to finalize it for submission to the twelfth session of the Working Party.
- 3.1.2 **Programme of Work 2022-2023** - The Chair introduced the draft Programme of Work 2022-2023 and proposed a stronger thematic focus on land administration and geospatial data. Bureau agreed to keep the broader focus on land management but to indicate in the draft Programme of Work when it plans to focus specifically

on land administration. In this regard, it was proposed to add a study in the support of an approximation among land administration, land management and geospatial management domains. The draft Programme of Work 2022-2023 was revised in the light of the discussion and approved by the Bureau by electronic decision-making. The secretariat was requested to finalize the document for submission to the twelfth session of the Working Party.

- 3.1.3 **Special procedures during COVID-19** – Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the secretariat informed the Bureau about the possibility to organize the twelfth session as hybrid meeting with online and in-person participation or with remote participation only. The secretariat continues to carefully monitor the situation in close consultation with the host country. The UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) had agreed on procedures to take decisions in formal meetings with remote participation. The secretariat will share this information with the Bureau for information.

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

Item 5: Next Bureau meeting

- 5.1 The next Bureau meeting is proposed to take place during the week of 22 February. Exact date and time are suggested to be determined by doodle poll.