

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Working Party on Land Administration
International Workshop

Land Administration in a Networked Society
Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 12 to 15 October 2011

Dear Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the international workshop 'Land Administration in a Networked Society' in Amsterdam organized by Cadastre Land Registry and Mapping Agency of the Netherlands and the UNECE Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA).

The UNECE is proud to work as secretariat to the UNECE WPLA as it works to promote sound land administration in the ECE region. The past and present activities by the Working Party have addressed some of the most important challenges faced by the countries of the region pertaining to sustainable land administration and land use, including issues such as spatial planning, regulations for transparent real estate markets and the modernization of cadastre and registration systems. Policy areas where the Working Party has provided useful guidance include the upgrading of data management technologies in land administration and the implementation of policies to support improved security of tenure.

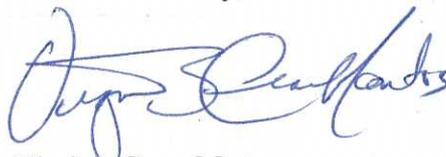
Discussions over the next two days will focus on the challenges and opportunities that an increasingly 'networked society' pose to land registry and cadastre organizations. Experts representing government institutions, the private sector, academia and non profit organizations (NGOs) will have the opportunity to analyze the potential to adapt processes and services in correspondence to the needs based on different national experiences.

Widespread and growing access of populations to the Internet, along with the implementation of e-Government reforms, has had a huge, largely positive impact on the delivery of government services. There have been greater efficiencies in government, greater empowerment of citizens, increased transparency, less corruption, less labour-intensive transactions, lower operating costs and increased revenue for fiscal authorities. As part of e-Government reforms many countries in the UNECE region have successfully converted their land registration and real property records from large collections of paper documents into a computerized form. However, to be used effectively, these instruments require appropriate legislation and a well-extended network of information technology encompassing all regional administrations within Member states.

While many countries in the UNECE region have already successfully set up e-Government technologies in land administration, others are only at an incipient stage; thus the need for enhanced international cooperation and for sharing experience is apparent: the knowledge gained from national experiences may greatly contribute to better customized policy recommendations.

I wish you a fulfilling two days of productive discussions on the impact of e-Government reforms experienced by different countries in the UNECE region and we look forward to supporting the implementation of your commonly agreed efforts.

Yours sincerely,



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UNECE