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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Activities on the implementation of the Programme of Work since the seventy-sixth session and recommendations for directions of future activities

Activities of the Committee on Housing and Land Management since the seventy-sixth session

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides information on the Committee activities since the seventy-sixth session, and outlines a tentative plan of work for 2017.

The Committee is invited to take note of the information on the implemented activities and to provide comments on the proposed planned activities for 2017.



I. Introduction

1. This document provides information on the Committee's activities since the seventy-sixth session under its programme of work (ECE/HBP/2015/7), and outlines a tentative plan of work for 2017.
2. The implementation of these activities is organized by the Committee secretariat under the coordination of the Committee Bureau. In 2016, two Committee Bureau meetings were held – on 16 March 2016 in Prague and 12 September 2015 in Geneva; and regular electronic communication was organized in between the Bureau meetings.

II. Information on the Committee's activities implemented under the Committee's programme of work 2016-2017

3. The following activities were implemented under the Committee's programme of work 2016-2017 (ECE/HBP/2015/7):

1. Sustainable housing and real estate markets

(a) Organization of the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

4. The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing (E/ECE/1478/Rev.1), a non-legally binding document that aims to support member States as they seek to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all, was endorsed by the UNECE on 14 April 2015. To disseminate information on the Charter, a web portal with interactive infographics was set up at <http://www.unece.org/housing/charter.html>, and promotional materials were developed. Information on the Charter was presented at UNECE regional and national meetings and events.¹

5. The Committee secretariat drafted recommendations for the implementation of the Charter, which were initially presented and discussed at the Committee's seventy-sixth session in December 2015. The Committee Bureau further elaborated draft guidelines for the implementation of the Charter, including terms of references for the establishment of Geneva UN Charter Centres (ECE/HBP/2016/2). The guidelines are expected to be adopted by the Committee at its seventy-seventh session. A network of Geneva UN Charter Centres is expected to be established during 2016-2018.

(b) Affordable and social housing

6. A study, "Social Housing in the UNECE Region: Models, Trends and Challenges" (ECE/HBP/182), was published. It examined the current trends, challenges and social housing models in the region, and provided recommendations for possible future activities. It concluded that while, in the past, social housing might have provided homes for the vulnerable and the poor, the recent crisis has not only increased but also diversified the social housing need. The study emphasized that current challenges offer opportunities to re-examine the sector, adjust it to the new dynamic of the housing market, and meet new aspirations, such as energy efficiency and customer-adjusted design.

¹ Information on the Committee's events is available at <http://www.unece.org/housing/meetings-and-events.html#/>

7. To further develop the discussion on the approaches to promote affordable and social housing, the Committee at its seventy-sixth session adopted a decision to prepare, in cooperation with partner organizations, a new survey on how countries in the ECE region have tackled the economic and financial crises after 2008, and how they are addressing the current migration crisis. The Committee requested its Bureau to elaborate a concept of the study, and invited the secretariat to implement it, subject to the availability of resources. Following the Committee decision, work on the study on housing migrants started in March 2016 with the support of the City of Vienna and the Swiss Federal Office for Housing (Informal Note 3); and a draft concept paper for the study on how countries in the ECE region have tackled the economic and financial crises after 2008 has been elaborated (Informal Note 4). The study is to be organized in 2017, subject to the availability of resources.

8. Two regional workshops discussing affordable and social housing were organized as side events to the European regional consultation meeting in Prague in March 2016.²

9. National workshops organized jointly by the UNECE and UN-Habitat and respective government agencies, within the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project “Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing and urban development in countries with economies in transition”, in the Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan also discussed the issue of affordability of housing.³

(c) Energy efficiency in buildings

10. In 2015, the secretariats of the CHLM and the Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE) conducted a survey of member States, prepared a survey report on “Building Standards and Building Regulations in the UNECE Region”, and organized an Expert Consultation on Energy-Efficiency Standards in Buildings. The study concluded that the highest priority area for work on building standards at the UNECE is the “Thermal performance of buildings and building components”. This is followed by “Construction materials” and “Minimum habitable standards for healthy and safe living”. The Consultation recommended establishing a Joint Task Force on Energy-Efficiency Standards in Buildings between the CHLM and the CSE (and its Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency), with the participation of experts representing the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) and other relevant intergovernmental bodies and international partner organizations. The CHLM endorsed this proposal at its seventy-sixth session. During 2016, the secretariat conducted fundraising for the work of the Joint Task Force and discussed possible future cooperation of the Task Force with different organizations and networks. The work of the Task Force has not yet started due to lack of funds.

11. The Committee, at the seventy-sixth session, took note of the possibilities of cooperation with the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) on energy efficiency in wooden buildings, and entrusted the CHLM Bureau to develop and organize the implementation of joint activities. The CHLM secretariat joined the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, the UNECE secretariat of the Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health, and the secretariat of the Ramsar

² Energy-efficient and affordable housing for low-income population, 17 March 2016, at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42339#/>; and Addressing housing affordability issues in the UNECE Region, 17 March 2016, at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42335#/>

³ Information on the project meetings is at <http://www.unece.org/housing/unda.html>

Convention on Wetlands in the organization of the Day of Forests on 21 March 2016. The event was dedicated to the theme of “Forests and Water”.⁴

2. Sustainable urban development

(a) Smart cities

12. The CHLM secretariat, in cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Environment Agency Austria (EAA) and other partner organizations, elaborated the UNECE/ITU Smart Sustainable Cities Indicators (ECE/HBP/2015/4). The draft indicators were developed as a tool to evaluate how smart and sustainable a city is, and to serve as a starting point for the implementation of concrete actions and measures to improve a city’s sustainability level. The Committee, at its seventy-sixth session, endorsed the indicators, requesting their amendment to harmonize them with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators when those are approved; and recommended developing Smart Sustainable City Standards and further activities on the preparation of smart sustainable city profiles.

13. In 2016, the indicators were discussed with member States and stakeholders in a series of workshops and online consultations, to ensure they reflect the SDGs, which were approved in September 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly. The amended indicators (ECE/HBP/2016/4) are expected to be endorsed at the Committee’s seventy-seventh session.

14. A city profile for the town of Goris in Armenia is being drafted. Goris is the first pilot city to test the indicators, and experience with the preparation of this city profile has been used as input into the development of an international standard discussed below.

15. The UNECE/ITU Smart Sustainable Cities Indicators (ECE/HBP/2016/4) formed the basis for the draft international standard New Draft Recommendation on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to address the achievement of the SDGs (ECE/HBP/2016/4). The draft standard was elaborated by the ITU-T Study Group 5 and finalized in April 2016 at the Study Group meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The CHLM secretariat cooperated with the ITU Study Group on the development of the draft standard.

16. A series of consultations with stakeholders, including UN agencies, professional organizations, the private sector, and academia, started on the proposed standard; they will continue in 2017. The Committee will be invited to endorse the standard at its seventy-eighth session in 2017.

17. Due to the importance of the concept of Smart Sustainable Cities at the global level, the UNECE and the ITU decided to involve other UN entities and relevant experts and launch the global initiative, United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC). It was officially launched at the UNECE/ITU Forum on “Shaping smarter and more sustainable cities: striving for sustainable development goals”, which took place in Rome, Italy, on 18-19 May 2016. It is based on three pillars: connecting cities; setting the framework; and enhancing smart governance (Informal Note 5). Several UN agencies and stakeholder organizations have already expressed their intention to join the initiative.

(b) Urban planning

18. The Committee secretariat organized, jointly with the secretariats of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention)

⁴ Information on the event is available at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41874#/>

and of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the European Investment Bank, a regional workshop on land use planning and hazardous wastes, in Geneva on 13 April 2016.⁵ “Draft guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects” (ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2016/INF.2), which was elaborated by the Working Group on Development under the Industrial Accidents Convention, was presented and discussed at the workshop.

19. Another workshop was organized jointly with UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Architecture and Construction of the Republic of Belarus in Minsk⁶ on 18-19 April 2016. It was aimed at discussing adapting the UN-Habitat International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning to the context of countries with economies in transition in the ECE region. The workshop recommended elaborating a joint UNECE-UN-Habitat programme on capacity building for urban planners in countries with transition economies in the ECE region, based on the Guidelines. More details on the ECE activities on urban planning, and proposals for the planning of the capacity-building activities, are available in (ECE/HBP/2016/5).

3. Preparations for Habitat III

20. The Committee was actively involved in the preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in October 2016, in Quito, Ecuador. The UNECE coordinated the implementation of the Roadmap for the UNECE Region for Habitat III, which included the organization of a series of regional events and national urban forums in the Czech Republic, Serbia and Tajikistan. Side events were held during the Habitat III First and Second Preparatory Committee sessions to report on the progress of the implementation of the Roadmap.

21. A publication, with short national reports, on “Challenges and priorities in housing and urban development in the ECE region”⁷ was prepared as the Committee’s input to Habitat III. The UNECE and UN-Habitat also supported governments of the CIS countries in the development of a “CIS Cities: Towards Sustainable Future - The Commonwealth of Independent States Regional Report”.⁸

22. The UNECE coordinated the preparation of the Habitat III “Report on Housing and Urban Development for the UNECE Region - Towards a City-focused, People-centred and Integrated Approach to the New Urban Agenda”, which will provide input into the New Urban Agenda to be adopted at Habitat III. The draft Report⁹ documents key trends in housing and urban development in the UNECE region over the last 20 years.

23. The Report was prepared under the supervision of the Habitat III Secretariat, in cooperation with regional offices of UN-Habitat, and through regular consultations with representatives of other UN agencies, international organizations, and academia, as well as other UNECE divisions. The process of the preparation of the Report included teleconferences with the Habitat III Secretariat and the organization of three expert group meetings. The draft Report was also presented and discussed at the Committee’s seventy-sixth session in December 2015. It was launched at the the third session of the Preparatory Committee meeting for Habitat III, in Surabaya, Indonesia, in July 2016.

⁵ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42475#/>

⁶ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42615#/>

⁷ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/informal_notes/3bA_Mini_CPs_publication.pdf

⁸ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42438>

⁹ The draft Report is available on the webpage <http://www.unece.org/housing/habitat3regionalreport.html>

24. The Committee was well represented at the “European Habitat” meeting, a high-level regional preparatory conference delivering inputs to Habitat III, which was held in March 2016. The following side events were organized by the UNECE during the Conference:

- “Implementation of the 2030 development agenda and achieving the SDGs towards the New Urban Agenda” was held on 16 March 2016. It was organized in cooperation with the UNECE/WHO Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) and UN-Habitat¹⁰
- “Shaping Smart Sustainable Cities for the New Urban Agenda” was held on 16 March 2016; it was organized in cooperation with the ITU and UN-Habitat¹¹
- “Addressing housing affordability issues in the UNECE region in the context of economic, financial and migration crises: challenges and good practices” was held on 17 March 2016; it was organized in cooperation with UNHCR and UN-Habitat¹²
- “Emerging trends and challenges to sustainable urban development in the CIS sub-region” was held on 17 March 2016; it was organized in cooperation with UN-Habitat¹³
- “Energy-efficient and affordable housing for low-income population” was held on 17 March 2016; it was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Urban Development and the National Housing Agency of Albania.¹⁴

4. Sustainable land administration and management

(a) Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA)

25. The Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) organized its ninth session in February 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. It was preceded by the workshop, “The Challenges of Informal Settlements” (25 February 2015, Geneva).

26. The WPLA organized two additional workshops in 2015: “Real Estate Rights and Cadastre Registration as an Element for the Development of Land Management Systems” (25–26 June 2015, Moscow) and “Development of Key Registers in Land Administration in the UNECE Region” (28–30 October 2015, Baku); and sessions during the Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty (23–27 March 2015 and 14–18 March 2016, Washington, D.C.) and the INSPIRE/Geospatial World Forum (25–29 May 2015, Lisbon).

27. In 2016, in collaboration with the Romanian Cadastre Agency, the WPLA co-organized the CENTRIC–UNECE/WPLA seminar (18 May 2016, Bucharest); and participated, with several presentations, in the Fourth High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (20–22 April 2016, Addis Ababa) and the Common Vision Conference 2016: Migration to a Smart World (5–7 June 2016, Amsterdam).

¹⁰ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42343#/>

¹¹ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42345#/>

¹² <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42335#/>

¹³ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42337#/>

¹⁴ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42339#/>

(b) Land Administration Reviews

28. The reviews of land administration and real estate markets in the Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan were developed by representatives from the OECD and the United Kingdom. These reviews were published as chapters in the country profiles on housing and land management for these countries.

(c) Studies on selected topics in land management

29. Further, the WPLA, in cooperation with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), published a study on “Formalizing the Informal: Challenges and Opportunities of Informal Settlements in South-East Europe”, and continued working on research into the optimal organizational structure for rendering services in land administration to society.

30. In 2015, the WPLA also issued a new survey to continue the research on “Land Registration and Cadastre: One or Two Agencies?”. The final paper on the project, including the results of the questionnaire, was presented at the Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty (14-18 March 2016, Washington, D.C.). With that, the project comes to an end. In 2016, the WPLA issued a revised survey Land Administration Systems in the UNECE Region (ECE/HBP/180).

31. The WPLA also continued activities on the preparation of potential technical guidelines on informal settlements in the UNECE region. A report, supported by the World Bank, with a literature review on informal settlements in countries with transition economies in the UNECE region was completed in May 2016.

(d) Work of the Bureau of the Working Party

32. Since the seventy-fifth session of the Committee, the Bureau of the Working Party met 13 times. The WPLA added an additional Task Group 8: Cooperation between the Working Party and the REM.

5. Country profiles on housing and land management

33. The Country Profile on Housing and Land Management of the Republic of Moldova (ECE/HBP/181) was completed in 2015. It was endorsed by the Committee at its seventy sixth session, and was published in English, Russian and Romanian. The Country Profile of Uzbekistan was completed after the seventy-sixth session, in January 2016. The work on that of Armenia continues – the draft publication is being prepared for presentation at the Committee’s seventy-seventh session. Following that, the Country Profile will be published. The work on the Country Profile of Kazakhstan is ongoing.

34. The Committee secretariat worked jointly with the governments of Tajikistan and the Republic of Moldova on the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) to implement the recommendations of the country profiles. A policy paper describing the approach to the development of the NAPs is being prepared with the support of the UNDA project “Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing and urban development in countries with economies in transition”.¹⁵

35. The guidelines for the preparation of country profiles were updated to reflect the latest practical experiences (ECE/HBP/2015/6); the updated guidelines were approved by the Committee in December 2015. An external evaluation of the country profiles programme is being completed; its key findings will be presented at the Committee’s

¹⁵ <http://www.unece.org/housing/unda.html>

seventy-seventh session. Depending on the results of the evaluation, there might be a need to update the guidelines once more.

III. Technical cooperation activities

36. The Committee continued the implementation of the UNDA project “Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing and urban development in countries with economies in transition”. This is a joint project with UN-Habitat. As mentioned above, the UNECE and UN Habitat assist, within this project, Armenia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan in the development of NAPs for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development. In each country, interagency steering committees and national groups of experts have been established, which contribute to the preparation of the NAPs.

37. A draft NAP was prepared for Serbia. Its development assisted the Government in formulating a comprehensive and coherent housing policy, which will allow the consolidation of multiple ad hoc activities on housing policy, which were previously implemented without any coordination. It will also promote cooperation between different key stakeholders in the housing sector at different levels (national and local), as well as synergies between diverse activities and projects on housing and urban development. The Government of Serbia already started the implementation of the Action Plan.

38. NAPs for Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan are currently being elaborated. An advisory mission to the Republic of Moldova was organized in February 2016; it included meetings with the Government as well as with the UN Resident Coordinator, the UNDP and other international organizations. A national validation workshop took place on 26 April 2016 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

39. Guidelines for the preparation of NAPs are being developed. Possible cooperation on the preparation of the action plans is also being discussed with other countries with economies in transition in the UNECE region which are not part of the above-mentioned UNDA project.

40. The UNDA 10th tranche project “Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition” started in June 2016. An advisory mission was organized to Kyrgyzstan.

IV. Cooperation with other organizations

41. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the housing sector, urban development and land management, the Committee is engaged in intersectoral and other cooperation with other organizations, and builds its work on the synergies with its partners.

1. Sustainable housing and real estate markets

42. The CHLM cooperates regularly with UN-Habitat, the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Housing Europe Federation, the International Union of Tenants, and other pan-European networks of organizations and cities, on issues related to affordable and healthy housing.

43. Cooperation with many international organizations, such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), on energy efficiency in buildings is organized through the work of the UNECE Task Force on Energy-Efficiency Standards in Buildings.

2. Sustainable urban development

44. The Committee is working together with its partner UN agencies on different aspects of urban planning and management. For instance, cooperation with its key partners, UN-Habitat, the ITU, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the OECD, and ISOCARP, is organized through regular joint events, presentations at each other's meetings, and the review of documents and publications.

45. The Committee has engaged representatives of other UN agencies, international organizations and academia in the drafting of the Habitat III Report for the UNECE Region, and in the implementation of the Regional Roadmap.¹⁶

46. Coordination with other UN Regional Commissions, which are drafting their Habitat III regional reports and organizing the implementation of regional roadmaps, is ongoing. To exchange experiences on this work, the Regional Commissions conduct regular teleconferences and organize joint side events during the Habitat III preparatory meetings.

47. Implementation of the United Smart Cities project¹⁷ continued. As part of the project, U4SSC was launched. It is expected to become a platform for cooperation of UN agencies, the private sector, academia, NGOs, cities and other relevant stakeholders. At the moment, as mentioned above, several UN agencies, such as UN-Habitat, UNIDO, ECLAC, the ECA, the FAO, the UNFCCC, the WMO, UN Women, UNEP, UNEP-FI, the WHO, the WTO, the UNCCD, the UNU-IAS, and UNDESA, have accepted to join it, and many others are expected to join soon.

48. The One UN Solutions for Cities and Climate Change side event was held on 8 December 2015, in Paris, in the framework of COP21. It was organized by the ITU, UN-Habitat, the UNCDF, the UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO, WHO, the UNDP and the WMO. It provided a platform to discuss various actions and solutions, reported on activities carried out by the UN system to address climate change, and presented strategic and innovative approaches for the New Urban Agenda.

49. The Committee is cooperating with UN-Habitat to implement the "International Urban and Territorial Planning Guidelines" provided by UN-Habitat. Joint advisory missions, conferences and capacity-building events are being organized with UN-Habitat. Information on the cooperation is available in ECE/HBP/2016/5.

3. Land administration and management

50. Under the Memorandum of Understanding on Land Administration and Management with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the WPLA is collaborating under a bi-annual cooperation plan with the latter, as well as with the World Bank and the European Commission Joint Research Centre.

51. The Working Party regularly cooperates on the organization of joint events and studies with other international organizations involved in land administration in the region, including UN-Habitat, the EU INSPIRE Initiative, the European Land Information Service (EULIS), FIG, the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE), the International Property Registries Association (IPRA-CINDER), EuroGeographics, the European Land

¹⁶For a list of cooperating partners for the Regional Report, please see the list of acknowledgements, at <http://www.unece.org/housing/habitat3regionalreport.html>

¹⁷ <http://www.unece.org/housing/smartcities.html>

Registry Association (ELRA), and others. It organizes annual meetings of international organizations and agencies, which serve as a neutral platform to discuss how to best work together to improve land management and land administration in the UNECE region.

4. Country profiles on housing and land management

52. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the results of the country profiles, the Committee established cooperation with UNDP offices in countries where the profiles are prepared. The profiles and/or NAPs to implement the profiles' recommendations were prepared jointly with the UNDP offices in Ukraine, Uzbekistan and the Republic of Moldova. The Committee also established cooperation with the OECD for the preparation of an urban planning chapter of the Country Profile of Armenia.

V. Major activities planned for end of 2016 and 2017

53. The Committee will continue the implementation of its activities according to its programme of work 2016-2017 (ECE/HBP/2015/7). The following global events should be also taken into account while developing the activities: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and the New Urban Agenda. The following activities are planned to be implemented:

1. Sustainable housing and real estate markets

54. The Committee will work to promote the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing through the organization of advisory services, capacity-building and dissemination activities, and the establishment of Geneva UN Charter Centres in member States, in cooperation with the countries and qualified partner organizations. Such Centres will support the secretariat in the dissemination of information on the Charter, conduct studies and organize capacity-building activities at national and regional levels.

55. A study on the economic crisis will be implemented, subject to the availability of resources (Informal Note 4).

56. Energy efficiency in buildings will remain a priority in the work of the Committee, especially as this will support the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. A Joint Task Force on Energy-Efficiency Standards in Buildings is to start its work, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

57. The Committee's Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) will update its publication, "Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets", taking into account the adoption of the UN SDGs, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, and other relevant policy documents. It will also organize two workshops, one in Berlin on housing finance, and another in Geneva on policies for affordable housing. The latter will be held back-to-back with the Committee's seventy-seventh session.

2. Sustainable urban development

58. Findings of the Habitat III Regional Report for the UNECE Region will be presented at the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016.

59. After the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at Habitat III in October 2016, the Committee will work to implement it in the UNECE region. Activities will include, among others, capacity-building activities and advisory services which will support the implementation of the UN-Habitat International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (2015), and work on selected pilot projects in cities in the UNECE region.

60. The Committee will continue its work on smart sustainable cities, addressing housing, infrastructure and quality of life in cities. Work on the development of Smart Sustainable City Standards and the preparation of smart sustainable city profiles will continue. The first of these profiles will be completed for the town of Goris in Armenia. Preparation of other smart sustainable city profiles will start after this. The cities will be selected on a competitive basis. An annual forum of partners to the U4SSC Initiative will be organized jointly with the ITU and other partners.

61. The Committee will cooperate with other UN agencies and UNECE intergovernmental bodies on the development of a system for the monitoring of urban related SDGs, starting with SDG 11 on Cities and Human Settlements.

3. Land administration and management

62. The WPLA will organize additional workshops in 2016 and 2017, one to take place in Madrid, Spain, in November 2016, and the others, to take place in Geneva, Austria and Canada in 2017.

63. Work will continue on the study on the advantages and disadvantages of the unification of land registries and cadastres, and on an update of the Land Administration Systems Survey.

64. The UNECE will also continue cooperation with the FAO, UN-Habitat and the World Bank on the development of Technical Guidelines on Informal Settlements in the ECE Region.

4. Country profiles on housing and land management

65. The Committee will continue preparing country profiles on housing and land management. The draft Profile of Armenia will be finalized and presented for adoption at the Committee's seventy-seventh session in September 2016. The secretariat will work on the development of that of Kazakhstan. Two missions to Kazakhstan are planned; one workshop is to be organized jointly with the Government and the UNDP. Preparations will start for the second Country Profile of Belarus.

VI. Planned technical cooperation activities

66. The Committee will finalize, in 2017, the implementation of the UNDA project, "Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing and urban development in countries with economies in transition". National workshops in the four beneficiary countries will be held to launch the NAPs. A final regional meeting to share lessons learned on the preparation and follow-up of NAPs will take place back-to-back with the seventy-eighth Committee session in September 2017.

67. Implementation of the UNDA 10th tranche UNECE/UN-Habitat joint project "Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition" will continue. Its aim is to strengthen national capacities for the development of evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban

development in four selected countries: Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. The project is being implemented during 2016-2019. It will assist the national governments in developing approaches for the collection and analysis of the national data on housing and urban development needed to review the implementation of SDG 11, “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, providing advice on the development of evidence-based policies and building capacity on sustainable housing through the provision of advisory services, and the organization of workshops and online training. In 2017, the Committee secretariat will organize advisory missions to all the countries involved in the project to establish communication with the project stakeholders, governments and possible partner international organizations; and will organize national workshops.
