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REPORT of Workshop

Strengthening National Capacities for Housing and Urban Planning in Armenia

9 April 2015, Yerevan, Armenia

Organization and attendance

1. The Workshop on the Strengthening National Capacities for Housing and Urban Planning in Armenia was carried out within the framework of the “Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing in selected countries with economies in transition” project, which is implemented from 2014 until 2017.
2. The workshop took place in Yerevan on 9 April 2015, which was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Development Programmes and the Ministry of Urban Development of Armenia.
3. The working languages of the workshop were English, Russian and Armenian.
4. The workshop was attended by 50 representatives from executive, regional, and local government bodies, international organizations, different organizations operating in the urban planning and housing sectors, UNECE secretariat, UN-HABITAT offices, as well as local experts and international experts.

Objective

The objective of the workshop was to review proposals for the content of the chapters of the UNECE Country Profile on Housing and Land Management and the National Action Plan to be developed based on the Country Profile recommendations.

Workshop Proceeding

The workshop was opened by **Mr. Narek Sargsyan**, Minister of Urban Development of RA, who welcomed participants and thanked the Housing and Land Management Committee of UNECE and UN-Habitat for their efforts in organizing the Workshop.

Afterwards Mr. Sargsyan invited representatives of UNECE secretariat, UNDP-Armenia office, Goris Municipality and Regional Environmental Center for Caucasus to sign two Memorandums of Understanding between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Government of the Republic

of Armenia, and also between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Development Programme, the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the City of Goris and the Regional Environmental Center for Caucasus Armenian office. The referred Memorandums provides the framework for cooperation between the parties in the preparation of the Country Profile on Housing and Land Management for the Republic of Armenia and for the development of a pilot project on smart city profile and action plan in the town of Goris.

The workshop and signing of Memorandums were welcomed by Ms. Claire Medina, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Armenia, Ms. Gulnara Roll, Head of Housing and Land Management Unit, UNECE, Mr. Vache Terteryan, First Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of RA, Mr Paulius Kulikauskas, Inter-Regional Advisor, UN-Habitat, Mr. Vachagan Adunts, Mayor of Goris and Ms. Nune Harutyunyan, RECC Armenian Office Director.

Ms. Ruzan Alaverdyan, Deputy Minister of Urban Development of RA chaired the Workshop.

The Workshop was organized in a form of four substantive sessions, besides an opening and signing of Memorandums of Understanding. The topics of the sessions were as follows:

Session 1. Habitat III Conference preparation

In the first session Ms. Gulnara Roll, Head of Housing and Land Management Unit, UNECE, informed the Workshop about UNECE work on urban development, the Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management in the UNECE regions, about main purpose and objectives of Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and also introduced the United Smart city project.

Mr. Paulius Kulikauskas, Inter-Regional Advisor, UN-Habitat, introduced the works on Habitat III conference preparation, Habitat III Road Map 2015-2016, and also Key elements for a New Urban Agenda.

Session 2. Housing sector (Legal and institutional frameworks, housing stocks, management, energy efficiency)

In the second session the representatives of RA Ministries of Urban Development and Labor and Social Affairs presented the state policies and steps taken by the Government of RA in the fields of Housing Policy, Housing Stock Management, Development of Social Housing Fund and Energy Efficiency in Housing, as well as the state programmes on housing provision for socially vulnerable groups.

UNDP Climate Change Programme Manager in Armenia and Director of Foundation to Save Energy have introduced the EE projects implemented in Armenia and presented the potential and challenges to promote energy efficiency in the Republic.

Session 3. Sustainable Urban Development, Spatial Planning and Land Management

In the third session Mr. Keith Thorpe, representative of Land and Property Directorate at the UK Department for Communities and Local Government in London, introduced the approaches of Sustainable Urban Development and Spatial Planning in the UK and Europe, Key Ingredients for Sustainable Cities, EU Policy Frameworks for Sustainable Cities and Urban Policy. Mr. Thorpe presented also Messages for Sustainable City Policy in Armenia.

The representative of the Local Self-Government Department and Head of Seismic Protection Survey of **Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of RA** have presented the mandatory duties of local self-government bodies in the land management, urban development, housing and communal infrastructures spheres, and current Projects and Programs being implemented in Armenia in the Solid Waste Management Sector, as well as were presented Seismic risk reduction activities in the Republic and Seismic Microzonation maps of Armenia.

Head of Geoinformation Division of «Geodesia and mapping» SNCO, **State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre of RA** shared information on geo-information systems and application of information technologies in real estate cadastre of Armenia.

Mr. Andrey Ivanov, expert from **Russian Federation**, presented Legal zoning of land-use as an efficient tool of urban regulation, examples from CIS, as well as shared the information on affordable opportunities of zoning for Armenia.

Session 4 Roundtable

The forth session was dedicated to the discussions of development of Chapters of Country and City profiles by the Members of Steering Committee, National and International experts.

Conclusion

Closing the Workshop the Deputy Minister of Urban Development of RA Ms. Ruzan Alaverdyan and Ms. Gulnara Roll expressed their thanks to participants of workshop for their active involvement and prospective discussions.