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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

#### Working Party on Land Administration

##### Thirteenth session

Geneva, Switzerland, 4-5 April 2023

##### Item 7 of the provisional agenda

##### Review of the Draft Terms of Reference of the Working Party 2025-2030

## Draft revised Terms of Reference for the period 2025-2030

### Note by the Bureau of the Working Party

#### *Summary*

The mandate of the Working Party on Land Administration is reviewed every five years by the parent Committee as outlined in the guidelines for the establishment and functioning of working parties within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE/EX/1).

This document contains the draft revised Terms of Reference of the Working Party on Land Administration for the period 2025-2030. The Working Party is invited to review and approve these Terms of Reference. Once the terms are approved, the Working Party will recommend the renewal of its mandate to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management at its eighty-fourth session in October 2023. The approved Terms of Reference of the Working Party are to be endorsed by the Committee, and the mandate of the Working Party renewed and approved by EXCOM in 2023.

1. The Working Party on Land Administration operates under the auspices of the ECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management. Its members are national land administrations and related authorities from the ECE member States.
2. The overall goals of the Working Party are the promotion and improvement of land administration and land management in the ECE region in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. Specifically, the Working Party aims at supporting good land governance, digital transformation and security of tenure as well as the improvement of cadasters and land registry. It also aims at contributing to the development of geospatial data infrastructures, efficient land use and real estate markets.
4. The activities of the Working Party are based on cooperation and the exchange of experiences among ECE countries. This is done through:



- (a) Seminars and workshops organized in member States, in person and/or online;
- (b) Land administration reviews;
- (c) Participation in the development of country profiles on urban development, housing and land management, organized by the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management;
- (d) Publication of studies and guidelines on specific land administration and land management topics; benchmarking and preparation of inventories of land administration systems; and providing policy advice and expert assistance. In particular, the Working Party deals with land administration and land management.

## **A. Land administration**

### **General tasks**

5. The general tasks of WPLA in the area of land administration are to:
- (a) Contribute to capacity-building for consolidating fit-for-purpose land registration and cadastral authorities; good, trustworthy and transparent land governance arrangements; and efficient land administration services for citizens, the business sector and government authorities.
  - (b) Improve policies and practices on the acquisition, registration, storage, maintenance and dissemination of information on real property rights as well as on the geometric and physical characteristics of land.
  - (c) Consider security and the development of coherent, fit-for-purpose land administration and land management authorities.

### **Activities**

6. The activities of WPLA in the area of land administration involve:
- (a) Documentation of: ownership rights, leases and mortgages, land cover, land use and land use restrictions, geo-referenced addresses; transfer of ownership rights; adjudication of land rights; solving of land disputes; cadastral mapping; data quality and data management activities; real property valuation and taxation; personal data protection; national and cyber security considerations; increase of usability of land administration public data; and, other related activities.
  - (b) Pricing of services; cost-recovery requirements; development of professional skills; taxation of land and real properties; development of e-services and assessing and integrating emerging technological advancements in the land administration systems; participation of land administration authorities in e-government programmes, including, for example, data interoperability and shared government data platforms.

## **B. Land management**

### **General tasks**

7. The general tasks of WPLA in the area of land management are to:
- (a) Contribute to the formulation, implementation and monitoring of land and geospatial policies (including related technical, legal, organizational and financial policy issues);
  - (b) Promote sustainable land management programmes and projects.

## Activities

8. The activities of WPLA in the area of land management involve:
    - (a) Providing advice on the implementation of geospatial data policy;
    - (b) Contributing to sustainable urban and rural development, with a particular focus on land consolidation, the protection of natural resources and further strengthening of good governance.
  9. The Working Party shall collaborate with the ECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group for Sustainable, Climate-Neutral and Energy-Efficient Buildings and Cities.
  10. The Working Party shall periodically review its programme of work to ensure the coherence of its activities with the work of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management and the overall objectives of the ECE.
  11. The Working Party coordinates its activities in close contact with relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations, such as the United Nations Programme on Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), the other United Nations Regional Commissions, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union institutions concerned with land management activities (e.g., the INSPIRE Initiative), the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the Permanent Committee on Cadastre (PCC), the International Centre of Registration Law (IPRA-CINDER), the European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information (EUROGI), EuroGeographics and the European Land Registry Association (ELRA) among others.
  12. The Working Party cooperates with international financial and donor organizations that fund programmes and projects related to land administration in countries of the ECE region (e.g., the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank).
  13. The Working Party encourages partnerships among the public and private sectors and their involvement in managing land resources and capacity-building for sustainable development.
  14. The Working Party encourages cooperation with educational institutions in order to enhance capacity-building activities.
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