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(Item 5 of the provisional agenda)

ACTIVITIES OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY NETWORK

Report by Mr. G. Gundersen, Chairman of the Network

Introduction

1. In 1997, the ECE Committee on Human Settlements established the Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network and agreed its terms of reference (ECE/HBP/104, annex II).
2. The Network has met twice since the sixty-first session of the Committee. The first meeting took place in London in December 2000. The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) organized the meeting, at which Mr. G. Gundersen (private consultant, Norway) was elected Chairperson and Ms. S. Bamford (William Sutton Trust, United Kingdom) Secretary. (For a list of members of the Network, see annex.) At its meeting in December, the Network reviewed the directions of its activities to align them with the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century and the Ministerial Declaration. In May 2001, the Network met in Geneva, in conjunction with the meeting of the Bureau of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements.

Work of the Network since the Committee's 61st session

3. During the reporting period, the Network:
 - (a) Advised the Committee's Bureau and the secretariat on the Committee's strategic planning process;
 - (b) Offered practical support to the ongoing projects of the Committee's programme of work;
 - (c) Assisted in further disseminating the results of country profiles and city case studies, and provided practical support in implementing the recommendations;
 - (d) Extended its contacts with other organizations and individuals, particularly NGOs working in countries in transition;
 - (e) Facilitated the dissemination of information about the work of the Committee in ECE countries.

Operational activities

4. The Chairman of the Network participated in an expert group mission to Tbilisi in May 2001 to advise on housing and land administration.
5. The Network made a number of practical proposals to strengthen the Country Housing Profile programme, including further post-study on-site support to countries in implementing recommendations made in the studies.

Handbook on Housing Finance Strategies

6. At its 61st session in September 2000 the Committee had expressed its support for the preparation of an ECE handbook on housing finance and invited the Network to prepare a detailed proposal for this activity, taking into account the work recently accomplished by the Committee. In May 2001, the Committee's Bureau considered and approved a detailed project plan and thanked the European Federation of Building Societies for funding this work. Later in June 2001, Mr. G. Gundersen and Mr. H. Pfeiffer, former Chairperson of the Network, met in Frankfurt (Germany) to discuss and develop the detailed project proposal for the preparation of the Handbook. The detailed project proposal is to be discussed by the Committee under the agenda item 4 (e)- Housing modernization and management.

Contribution of the Network to the ECE Event at the "Istanbul+5 Conference"

7. Three Network members attended the special session of the United Nations General Assembly "Istanbul +5 Conference" in New York in June 2001. Ms. S. Bamford made a presentation about the activities of the Network as part of an ECE Special Event held on Wednesday, 6 June 2001. The Event addressed the importance of public/private partnerships in implementing the five challenges enshrined in the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century. As a follow-up to the Conference, the Network will present a number of proposals on priority directions to the Committee.

Membership of the Network

8. The Network discussed its membership and agreed that it should not exceed nine members. It was also agreed that:

- (a) The Network would recommend new members to join it based on its requirements for skills and experience;
- (b) The Network would strive to achieve a balance of ethnicity, of men and women, and of members from countries in transition and western countries;
- (c) New members of the Network would be approved by the Bureau;
- (d) The Network could invite to its meetings different experts, should those experts have particular skills / experience that the Network wished to draw on;
- (e) Members of the Network would be required to attend a minimum of two meetings each year to secure continued membership of the Network.

Annex

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY NETWORK (HUMAN)**

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