

Housing in the UNECE region

Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe

Session 3: Harnessing Geospatial Data for Sustainable Housing and Land Management

Maike Salize

Secretary to the Working Party on Land Administration

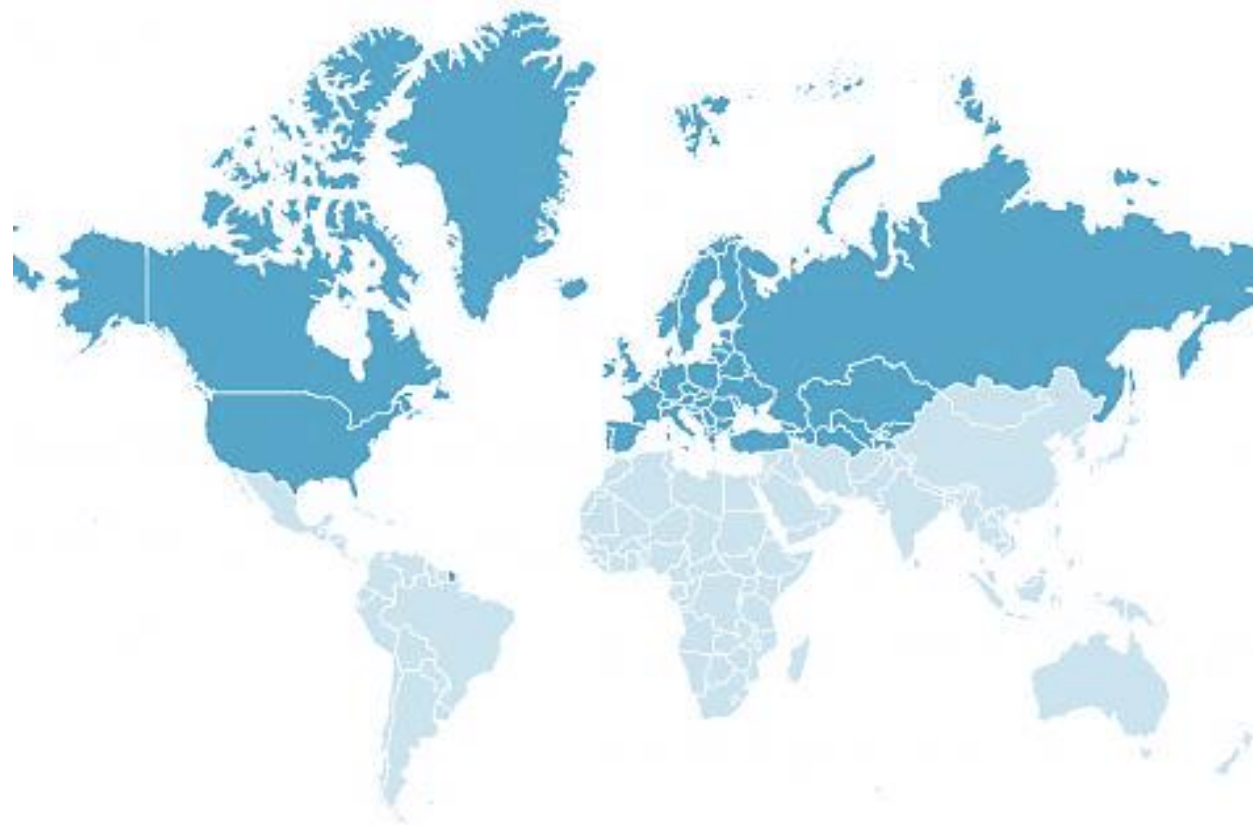
UNECE Cities Unit

Energy, Housing and Land Management Division



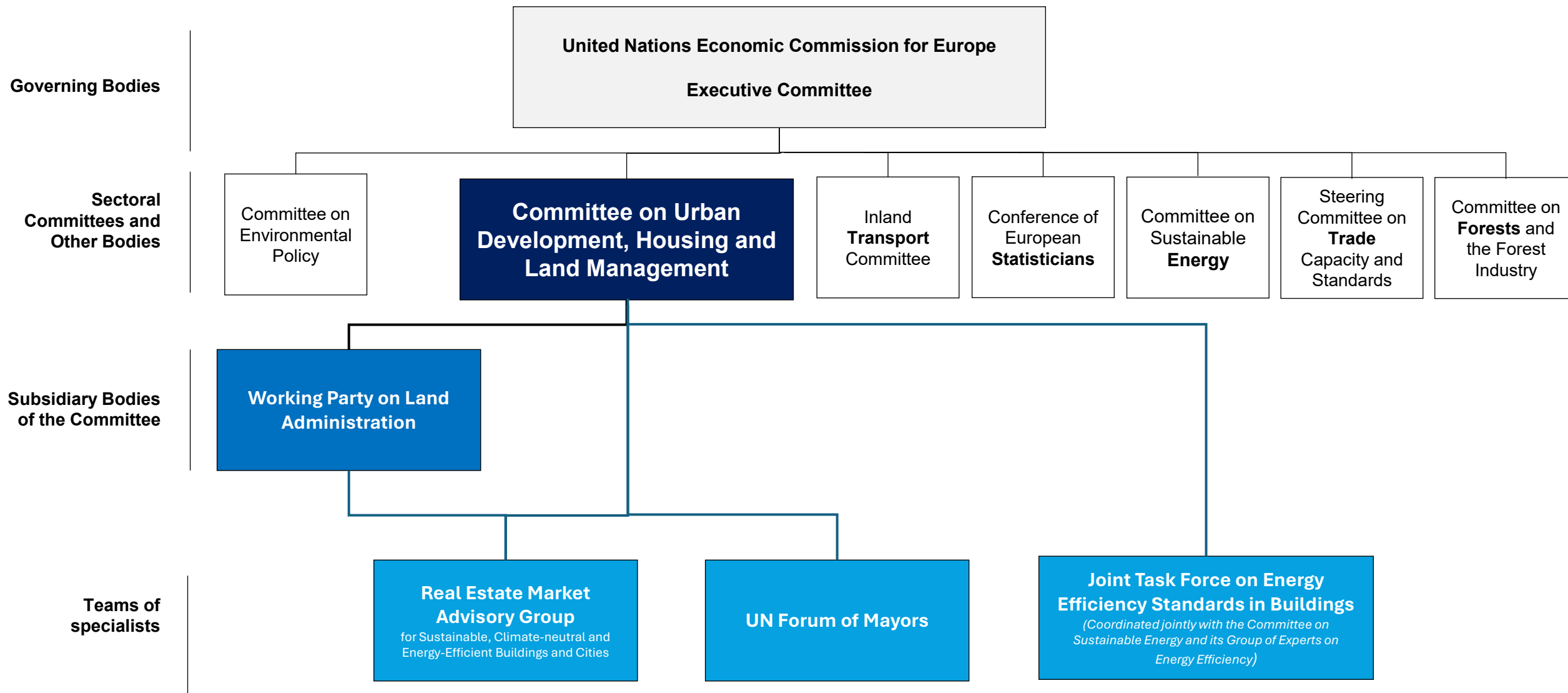
UNECE – One of 5 UN Regional Commissions

56
member States



Committee and Working Party

Positioning in the UNECE intergovernmental architecture



Evolution of Housing related work under the Committee

Framework Documents and Action Plans

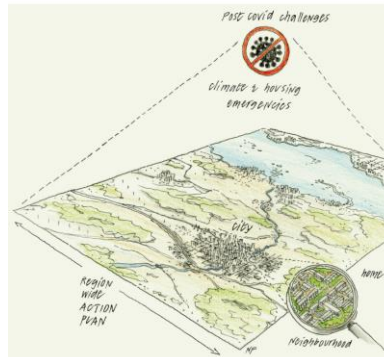
The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

Ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all



Place and life in the ECE A Regional Action Plan 2030

Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes



#Housing2030: online toolbox

#Housing2030

Effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region



2024 Survey and study

Challenges and priorities for improving housing affordability in the UNECE region



Housing affordability in the UNECE region

- **Stagnant income growth**
- **Shortage of housing supply**
- **Rising housing prices**
- **Increasing land prices and construction costs**
- **Demographic pressures**
- **Housing affordability increasingly affect not only vulnerable groups but also middle-income households, young people and families**

2025 Ministerial Meeting - from Commitments to Implementation



2025 Ministerial Meeting on Housing Affordability and Sustainability

Adopted Ministerial Commitments on Housing Affordability and Sustainability to

- Develop and adopt **integrated national housing strategies**
- Recognize and reinforce the **role of local governments**
- Systematically **collect and share national, regional and local housing data**
- Establish **active land policies** at the national and local levels, including land value taxation
- Invest in and **expand public, cooperative, social and community-led housing** stock
- **Promote new construction models** that integrate climate resilience and mitigation, **energy efficiency and innovative building technologies**
- **Retrofit the existing housing stock**
- Promote **regenerative densification**
- Enhance **international cooperation and peer learning** mechanisms

2025 Ministerial Meeting Concluding messages

Multidimensional, Structural Housing Challenge

Housing affordability must be tackled with integrated policies across housing, land, energy, social and governance.

Diverse Policy Tools

UNECE countries need strategies, legal reforms, public investments and digital governance to improve housing affordability.

Adapted Regional Commitments

Ministerial Commitments guide regional policy but require local adaptation and effective implementation to succeed.

Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA)

- **Ensure secure property rights & good governance**
Build reliable cadastre and registration systems
Strengthen transparency and legal certainty
- **Promote modernization of land systems**
Respond to digitalization, geospatial technologies and evolving user needs
- **Enable sustainable development**
Support efficient land use, urban planning and environmental management
- **Facilitate international cooperation**
Provide a platform for knowledge exchange, best practices and peer learning

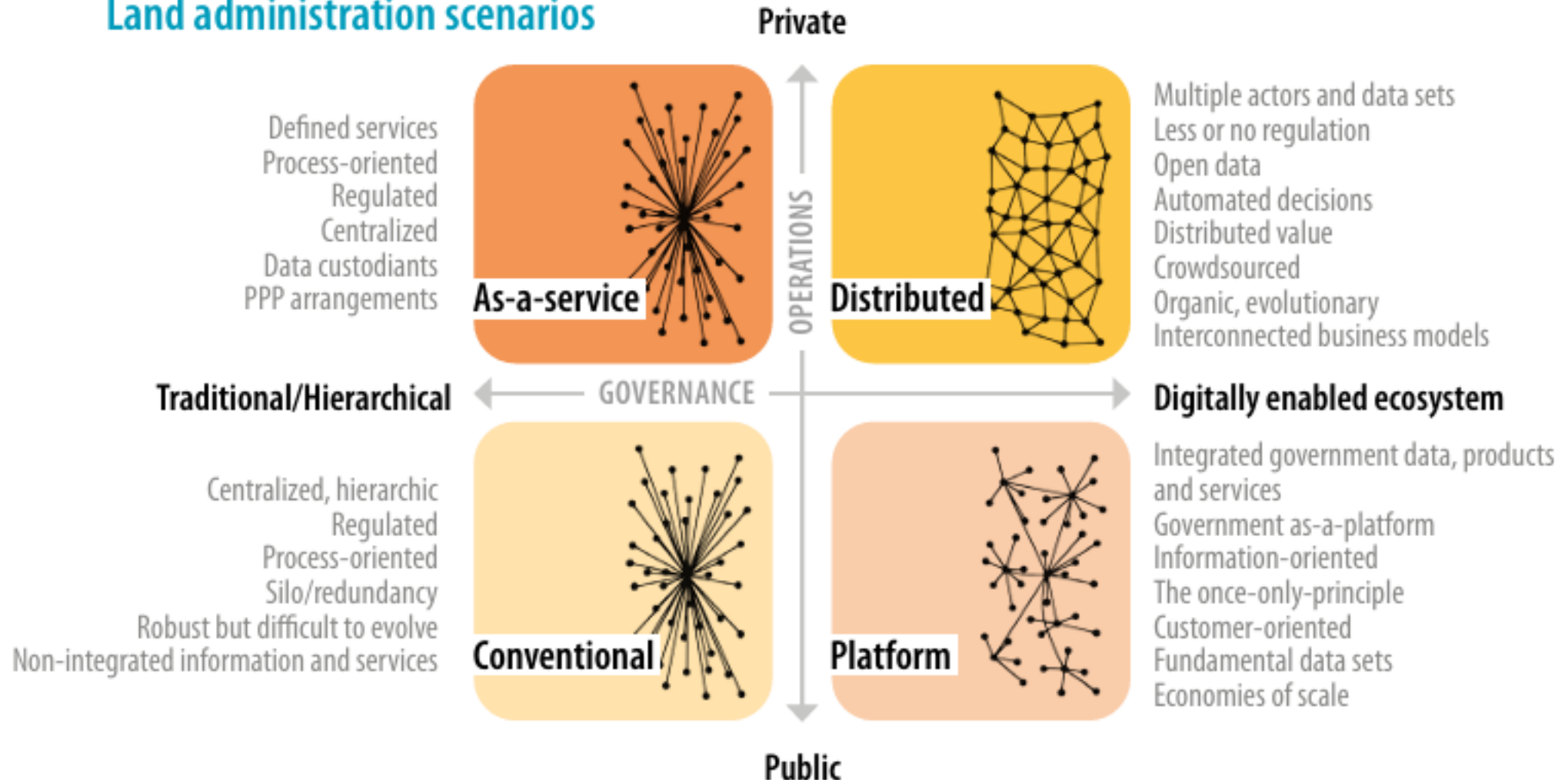
- [illegible]



UNECE

2021 Scenario Study on Future Land Administration

Land administration scenarios



WPLA focus of work 2026-2027

- **Land administration is at a strategic crossroads**
moving beyond core registration functions
- **Growing expectations:** support urban planning, climate resilience, disaster risk management, and sustainable development
- Rising demand for **integrated, cross-sector data and services** across institutions and governance levels
- **Interoperability** between cadastre, registry, planning, valuation and geospatial systems is essential.
- Transition towards **coordinated platforms and distributed digital ecosystems.**
- **Digital transformation**
requires aligning legal, institutional and technical systems, not just IT upgrades

Study under preparation: Tenure security towards resilience and sustainability

1. Strengthening foundations

- Strong legal frameworks, institutions, core functions
- Ensure tenure security, transparency and trust

2. Comprehensive digital transformation

- Whole-of-system reform: data, institutions, services, and capacity.
- Focus on interoperability, accessibility and cybersecurity.

3. Embedding resilience and sustainability

- Integrate climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and inclusion.
- Support green transition and sustainable land use.

4. Operationalize global frameworks

- Aligned with IGIF, FELA
- Translated into regional implementation pathways

- **Housing affordability is also a land problem**
shaped by land availability, value, tenure security, data and market transparency
- **Geospatial information links housing to location**
enabling understanding where affordability pressures occur and supporting targeted, place-specific interventions
- **Land administration provides the enabling infrastructure**
cadastre, registry, valuation and integrated geospatial data underpin housing policy
- **IGIF - FELA - WPLA**
IGIF provides the overarching framework, FELA specifies it for land administration, WPLA translates it for the UNECE region

Thank you

Maike Salize

maike.salize@un.org

<https://unece.org/housing>

[UNECE WPLA](#)

