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**PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

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Working Party on Territorial Policy in Urban Areas

SUMMARY RECORD of the 7th SESSION

**1 June 2005
Nagoya, Japan**

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WORKING PARTY ON TERRITORIAL POLICY IN URBAN AREAS – 7th SESSION
1 JUNE, 2005 – NAGOYA, JAPAN
SUMMARY RECORD

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

1. Mr. Takayuki Hara, TDPC Chair, introduced the agenda of the 7th Session, which was approved by the Working Party. He reminded delegates that Morocco had joined the Committee as Observer to the Committee and its Working Parties and welcomed its adherence. At the 12th Session of the TDPC the Committee approved the request of Morocco to participate as Observer to the Committee and its Working Parties. The Head of Delegation, Mr. Mohamed SOUAFI, Directeur de l'Aménagement du Territoire (Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'EAU et de l'Environnement), was unfortunately unable to participate on this occasion.

Item 2: Election of the Bureau

2. Two members withdrew from the Bureau: Mrs. Bersani, France and Mr. Baruah, United States. Mr. Hara expressed his thanks to Mr. Baruah and to Mrs. Bersani for their commitment to and interest in the activities of the Working Party as Working Party Delegate and as Bureau member and looked forward to the continued involvement of France and the United States in the activities of the Working Party. Three new candidates were proposed and their nominations supported by the Working Party. They concern: Mr. Adam Ostry, Canada; Mr. Vincent Fouchier, France; and Mr. José Manuel Rodríguez Alvarez, Spain.

The Bureau was elected as follows:

Chair: Mr. T. Hara (Japan)

Vice-Chairs: Mr. Adam Ostry, (Canada)

Mr. Vincent Fouchier, (France)

Ms. B. Helff (Germany)

Ms. A. Ruden (Norway)

Mr. José Manuel Rodríguez Alvarez, (Spain)

Item 3: Opening Remarks by the Chair and Statement by the Director

3. The Chair, Mr. Takayuki Hara, reported on the preparations for the International Symposium on *Enhancing City Attractiveness for the Future*, over the next 2 days, 2-3 June. [GOV/TDPC/URB(2005)2]. He explained the recent and ongoing work of the Working Party, in particular the outcome of the *International Conference on City Competitiveness*, 3-4 March 2005, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain. He also informed delegates of a forthcoming Conference in Montreal in October 2005 concerning the *Sustainable Competitiveness of Cities*, which will focus on the social dimension of city competitiveness. The series of three conferences mentioned organized by GOV address the challenges confronted by cities to develop the best economic and social conditions to attract skills and investment. Along with the OECD Territorial Reviews on metropolitan regions, these three conferences will provide valuable insight to ongoing work of the TDPC in identifying the most effective central government policy strategies for supporting competitiveness in cities and metropolitan areas.

4. Mrs. Odile Sallard, Director of GOV, briefed the Working Party on the latest developments within the OECD. The Director reported on the 2004 Programme Implementation Reporting (PIR) – see Annex 4 - and the OECD In-depth Evaluation and described the implications for the TDPC and its Working Parties. The Director welcomed the opportunity of the 7th Session to discuss the achievements of the Working Party, the evaluation of activities undertaken and the Working Party's contribution to the TDPC work programme over the next biennium. The Director also mentioned the latest developments concerning outreach work.

Item 4: Towards the Sustainable Use of Building Stock

5. The final synthesis report “Towards the Sustainable Use of Building Stock” was discussed and approved by the Working Party. The Secretariat introduced the report, presented the outline of the work as well as the main conclusions. In the lively debate that followed delegates expressed their appreciation to the Secretariat for the work carried out and drew parallels with policies in their countries. Canada suggested that the necessity of promoting appropriate cooperation among different levels of government could be noted in the report. France stressed the importance of considering resource efficiency from the urban context, for instance, by examining urban land use, the transport system, etc., Japan reported on two measures to be introduced in accordance with the recommendations of the final synthesis report: 1. The establishment of a new housing policy scheme by end 2005, as well as new housing policy indicators, including data related to the performance of building stock. 2. The “World Sustainable Building Conference”, September, 2005, Tokyo, hosted by the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, to provide valuable insight and promote the exchange of information in this area. The Netherlands highlighted several important issues to address to promote SUBS, such as improving the design quality of existing buildings, increasing the transparency of the real estate market, promoting incentives for improving resource efficiency, by for instance separating water supply according to the nature of its usage, intensifying the usage of urban tissues, and setting examples of best practices by the government itself. Norway underlined the issue of enhancing economic sustainability of related measures by, for instance, reducing administrative costs, is important. The United Kingdom outlined the current status of the Home Information Pack, which should be introduced in the UK, aiming to increase the efficiency of the resale market.

Item 5: Metropolitan Competitiveness and Governance

➤ The Case of Seoul

6. This metropolitan review analyses how Seoul is striving to upgrade its positioning from a national mega-capital towards a “world city” and a business hub in Northeast Asia. The study was introduced by Mr. Joon-Ho Ahn from the Seoul Metropolitan Government. This was followed by a presentation by the Secretariat on the main results of the case study on Seoul's competitiveness and governance challenges (input for the Horizontal Synthesis Report on metropolitan competitiveness and governance that will be presented to the Delegates in June 2006). During the lively debate that followed, many delegates gave high appreciation of the report and expressed similar policy experiences in their respective countries. Canada reported parallel concerns in terms of fiscal equalisation, and together with Italy, highlighted the importance of ensuring social cohesion in large cities. France compared the concentration issue in Seoul with the 'Paris and the French desert' issue and proposed that the Working Party examine the relationship between capital cities and national governments in its future activities. Sweden underlined the similarities between Seoul and Stockholm in terms of vertical governance challenges, while the Netherlands related that their own example of relocating ministries out of the actual seat of government had been less efficient than relocating universities. Seoul Metropolitan Government and the Chair thanked the Working Party Delegates for their valuable comments and the discussion that will be reported to the forthcoming 13th Session of the TDPC.

Item 6: Metropolitan Competitiveness and Governance

➤ Horizontal Synthesis Report on Metropolitan regions

7. The Secretariat provided a brief overview of ongoing work on metropolitan competitiveness and governance, in particular, the forthcoming *Horizontal Synthesis Report on Metropolitan regions "Competitive cities in the Global Economy"* which will be a “flagship” publication, released end of 2006, based on the analysis drawn on completed and ongoing policy studies in metropolitan areas, the ongoing and forthcoming territorial reviews on metropolitan regions, and the urban policy conferences. Delegates

commended this work and look forward to the presentation of the final report at the Working Party's 8th Session and at the TDPC for endorsement at its 15th Session in June 2006.

Item 7: Roundtable on the Urban Policy Agenda: Key Issues

8. The Chair introduced a roundtable discussion on issues of rising importance on the urban policy agenda. The discussion provided valuable insight on best practices in member countries and guidance to the Secretariat on the future activities of the Working Party and its contribution to the programme of work of the TDPC for the 2007-2008 biennium. Member countries presented examples of urban policy development from their countries' perspective, and the discussion raised issues such as: policies to facilitate co-operation and competition between cities; the importance of reinforcing linkages between regions to make better use of each territory's potential; the importance of neighbourhood developments incorporated into urban policy frameworks; growing awareness of the direct link between competitiveness and both social issues and quality of life; policy fragmentation and policy coordination at the central level still constitute a major challenge; the new role of central government as an enabler of sub-national government and the facilitator of various types of partnerships and dialogue; decentralisation necessitates efficient coordination in establishing and implementing planning controls; capacity building at the local level, a necessity to fine tune policy to local conditions and make possible a better use of local assets; the importance of integrating civil society and the private sector into strategic planning to enhance competitiveness.

9. The outcome of the discussion brought to light a number of issues of common concern in the field of urban policy in OECD member countries, in addition to the importance of obtaining statistics on a city basis. The following points were singled out as particularly significant for understanding broad trends in urban policy that are likely to continue over the coming years:

1. Policy planners increasingly have to address a wide range of objectives encompassing environmental, social and economic issues simultaneously. This has made it necessary to adopt a pro-active, holistic approach to policy planning, which differs from the problem solving approaches that policy planners formerly adopted to address urban policy.
2. The role of government in urban policy is also changing. Central government must often play the role of enabler and facilitator in the development of partnerships and co-operation (both horizontal and vertical) between governments at the sub-national level to achieve greater competitiveness.
3. In this context, it is increasingly important to ensure that urban planners coordinate with a range of stakeholders, such as members of civil society and the private sector, and that these stakeholders are given opportunities to participate and enter into dialogue under strong leadership.

10. The provisional results of the roundtable discussion were submitted for information to the TDPC at its 14th Session in June 2006. The final document is available on OLIS with the reference GOV/TDPC/RD(2006)6.

Item 8: The Chair thanked Working Party members for their participation. The meeting was adjourned.

ANNEX I

**WORKING PARTY ON TERRITORIAL POLICY IN URBAN AREAS
7th SESSION – 1 June 2005, Nagoya, Japan
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