

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Global Donor Working Group on Land**

#### **Context**

The combination of sharp increases in food prices starting in 2008 and continued volatility, together with the rapid expansion of land use for biofuels and growing concerns over climate change have led to a strong increase in interest in land in emerging-economy countries. This has prompted many governments and development partners to increase their efforts to address land tenure and resource governance issues in developing countries. The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) were endorsed in May 2012 by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The VGGT are the first internationally negotiated and agreed soft-law instrument on the governance of land tenure. The G8 Summit under the US Presidency in 2012 supported implementation of the VGGT, and the G8 in 2013 under the UK Presidency launched a "Land Transparency Initiative" with country pilot partnerships in seven developing countries to implement the VGGT and, more broadly, strengthen land governance and property rights. This, combined with efforts from multilateral and regional organizations to promote greater land transparency, has led to many an agreement to support better coordination of implementation of land governance programmes and information sharing on best practices by the international community. A Global Donor Working Group on Land has been created to support improved delivery in a climate of heightened attention, need and awareness of existing challenges and lessons. The working group is supported through the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development.

#### **Objectives**

1. Improve exchange of information and lessons learned among donors and donor networks on land (main focus: tenure, governance, rural and urban)
2. Improve donor coordination on land governance<sup>1</sup> at the international level (building on local, national and regional coordination), for example to build consensus around critical or emerging issues and international processes, and promote a value-added and synergetic approach between national, regional and international coordination
3. Agree on joint action where suitable, on a case by case basis, for example in the context of the interaction with other land-related networks and platforms (e.g. CFS, ILC, AU LPI, GLTN, G8/G20 and other stakeholders)

#### **Membership**

4. Initial membership to be donor members of the EU Working Group on Land (ADA, AFD, BMELV, BMZ, DFID, EC, GIZ, MoFA-Austria, MoFA-Denmark, MoFA-Finland, MoFA-France, MoFA-Netherlands, SDC, Sida) and FAO, JICA, IFAD, MCC, USAID, CIDA, UN-HABITAT and WB who agreed at the Donor Roundtable Meeting in Washington at the World Bank on 12 April 2013 to establish a Global Working Group on Land.
5. Selection criteria for new members:
  - a. The organisation must be a multi-lateral, bi-lateral or philanthropic donor committed to responsible land and natural resource governance and active at various levels (local, national, regional, global). The organisation should preferably not be operating or supporting partners in one single context given the Group's focus on coordination at

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<sup>1</sup> "Land governance" is to be understood as comprising all land-related elements set out in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forestry and Fisheries (VGGT).

- national and regional levels, as well as on global sharing of information and cross-cutting learning;
- b. The organisation must be committed to sharing information and data regarding its programmes related to land and resource governance;
  - c. The organisation must be willing to participate in regular physical meetings as well as phone calls;
  - d. The organisation must commit to supporting one or more elements of the Global Donor Working Group's multi-year road map, incl. by documenting and updating its contributions in the Group's Land Governance Programme Map.
6. New members can be admitted to the Global Working Group on Land following a short presentation (written or in person) that outlines the core mandate of the organisation wishing to join, and its fit with the Terms of Reference for this group. The members of the Global Working Group on Land will accept new members by consensus.
  7. Membership is not tied to conditions other than active participation.
  8. If members wish to cease membership, they notify the chair and cease to be members 30 days after receipt of written confirmation by chair of receipt of the withdrawal request.
  9. Observers to group meetings are welcome at the discretion of members.

#### **Chair**

10. The Chair will be held on a rotating basis by one of the participating organisations. Organisations should be represented by one person as Chair. If necessary the organisation can change the person chairing by notifying the Secretariat and other members. The Chair will be held for two years by members who are proposed and seconded for the role, with the objective being to have to provide all active members with the opportunity to hold the chair. After one year, the next chair will join as incoming chair (and deputy). There will be no deputy in year one during which the UK has been agreed to take the inaugural chair. The incoming chair will take over as full chair after their first year. In year two, this chair will be joined again by a new incoming chair, and so forth. Unless an alternative mode is agreed on a case by case basis, the change of chair will take place one year after the appointment of the deputy chair.
11. This procedure can be amended by consensus.
11. The lead of the Global Working Group on Land chairs the group meetings and functions as direct contact person for the Platform Secretariat. The Chair shall guide the group, coordinate meetings, and act as a focal person with members and others externally. The Chair can also represent and speak on behalf of the group at external meetings but is restricted to providing information, networking and coordination on behalf of the group, and explaining joint actions where these have been pre-agreed.

#### **Decision Making and Procedures**

12. The working group will draft annual or longer-term work programmes to guide its work.
13. Decisions are taken by consensus.
14. Consensus on amendments or other decisions is reached when all members participating in a meeting which is announced at least 48 hours, but preferably at least 5 working days, in advance agree on the proposed way forward.
15. Silence through participating or absent members will be taken as approval.
16. The working group cannot commit any individual member to doing anything bilaterally without their explicit consent.

### **Administration support and logistics**

17. Members of the Global Working Group on Land meet physically at least once a year back to back with major land related events, e.g. the annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty in April and the session of The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in October. Meetings may also be agreed to be held more flexibly as required.
18. Between the physical meetings the group meets regularly as needed. This will happen online or via telephone conference call.
19. All meetings are organized and facilitated by the Secretariat of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, carrying out decisions taken by Members, and at the request of and with process agreed with the Chair. All physical or virtual exchanges and meetings are summarised by the Platform Secretariat, with such minutes sent out to members with final approval by the Chair. Approved summaries are posted on the Platform webpage. (In addition, group members will also have access to a members-only sub-section on the webpage, to exchange and work on internal documents – work in progress.)
20. Cooperation and interaction between Members is facilitated by the Platform Secretariat. Based on the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development's [Charter](#) and [Strategic Plan 2012-2014](#) (renewed until 2015), the Secretariat functions as the Platform's support and service unit for the Global Working Group on Land in organizational matters and implementation.
21. The Platform Secretariat provides technical facilities and tools to create the necessary space for the group's interactions, allowing continuous Member engagement towards the creation of a robust knowledge base and joint learning for increased donor cooperation.