

## **Global Donor Group on Land – Three-Year Road Map (Oct 2014- Oct 2017) - FINAL DRAFT, amended in July 2015**

Good land governance is more important than ever. In early 2013, the global land donor community came together, recognising that more needs to be done to better coordinate the implementation of land governance programmes, share information on best practices among the international community, and, where applicable, join forces in international policy, advocacy and programme work. This understanding gave rise to the Global Donor Working Group on Land which was formalised in August 2013. It currently has 23 members and is open for further enlargement by interested donors.

The new Global Donor Working Group on Land is now a year old. During this first year, the group has engaged in a vibrant internal debate and information exchange, launched a [new global land programme database and map](#), (including at the time of writing 550 active projects in 126 countries, worth a combined US\$5.9 billion), defined common ground, and advocated strongly for priority subjects such as implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines and the role of land in a post-2015 framework.

The group has also identified strong themes for its aligned and joint work for the next three years. These have been set out in the present document which serves as a road map for the Global Donor Working Group on Land for the period 2014-17. The Global Donor Working Group's priorities and activities are ambitious. They respond to opportunities and challenges that the land governance agenda will be facing over the coming years. The group will focus on areas of work in which members or the full group have a comparative advantage, are agreed on activities, and able and keen to deliver or leverage impact. Wherever appropriate the group will build on and collaborate with donor work undertaken at regional and national level, but the focus of its externally facing engagement will be at the international level. At the same time, members will continue their vibrant internal engagement, information exchange and mutual learning. We are also keen to learn from, exchange information with and support external stakeholders and therefore explicitly encourage government, private sector and non-government stakeholders on land to reach out on areas of common interest.

*1 October 2014, DFID/UK and BMZ/Germany as Co-Chairs of the Global Working Group on Land*

**Vision:** Effective, participatory and transparent land governance at all levels contributes to sustainable economic development and poverty eradication

**Goal:** Members of the Global Donor Working Group on Land make a **relevant contribution** to strengthening land governance through selected initiatives that foster transparency, responsibility and accountability by all stakeholders (governments, private sector, civil society, professionals, academia) at international, regional, national and local levels

<b>Headline priorities</b> <i>identified at full group meeting of  28 March 2014<sup>1</sup></i>	<b>Activities 2014-17</b>
<b>(1) Land related information exchange, coordination and cooperation strengthened in priority areas. Lead: World Bank</b>	
<p><b><i>Join up the dots, on</i></b>  <i>(a) better donor coordination and joined-up funding where suitable,</i>  <i>(b) where innovative technology for rights mapping/registration is concerned, promoting interoperability, open data, open source as a default wherever suitable;</i>  <i>(c) maximize mutual learning</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Continue to exchange information on land policy and programme work in group; facilitate more structured online briefings on priority subjects; expand database – lead: <b>Chair with Platform Secretariat, with inputs from all</b></li> <li>1.2 Make more in-depth information about selected flagship programmes available on group website, e.g. through features of lessons learnt, best practice, etc. – lead: <b>Chair with Platform Secretariat, with inputs from all</b></li> <li>1.3 <b>M</b> (i) Commission overview/scoping study of open data, open source, interoperable innovative tech solutions for land rights mapping/registration/monitoring,  (ii) develop joint understanding and approach regarding open data on land tenure, and  (iii) publish policy brief with common ground on interoperable, open systems – leads: <b>DFID, FAO, BMZ, UN-Habitat</b></li> <li>1.4 Jointly with the Platform Secretariat, develop a list of key global events to feature our information, engage with key KM agents more strategically, in particular where innovative tech use on land is concerned, and ensure active presence at priority events [<i>to be fleshed out further in communication strategy</i>] – lead: <b>Platform secretariat + all</b></li> <li>1.5 Explore possibilities to include a code on “land governance” in the OECD/DACs list of purpose codes, and seek linkages to monitoring and reporting on any possible land target in a post-2015 framework as applicable - lead: <b>Sida (with EU)</b></li> <li>1.6 <b>M</b> Facilitate information about and delivery of strategic south-south exchanges (number and specific focus areas tbd) – lead: <b>BMZ, USAID, WB/Japan</b></li> <li>1.7 Scope priorities for dedicated sessions/events on lesson learning and best practice and implement series (with public access) –lead: <b>WB/Japan with USAID and BMZ/GIZ</b></li> <li>1.8 Scope international training programmes where donors could collaborate and agree among members on specific collaborations –lead: <b>WB/Japan with USAID and BMZ/GIZ</b></li> <li>1.9 Scope priority needs for capacity building on land governance and agree on funding joint programme –lead: <b>WB/Japan with USAID and BMZ/GIZ</b></li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> Agreed at group meeting on 28 March. Changes should therefore only be about language, but not content.

<b>Headline priorities</b> <i>identified at full group meeting of  28 March 2014<sup>1</sup></i>	<b>Activities 2014-17</b>
<b>(2) Country partnership model to support improved land governance expanded and deepened. Lead: USAID</b>	
<u><b>Expand and deepen the country partnership model</b></u> to (a) include more donors (than just the initial G8/7 who launched the approach for land), (b) incentivise corporates, NGOs and civil society to join more actively, (c) explore alternative partnership models as suitable per national context (e.g. roundtables on better investments)	2.1 Continue to disseminate progress and learning reports coming out of G7 (formerly G8) and other processes, including through publication via our webpage <i>[to be included in communication strategy]</i> : leads: <b>BMZ, DFID, Secretariat</b> 2.2 Ensure close linkages between relevant G7 processes and global donor group (through Chair and relevant G7 Presidency) – leads: <b>Chair, G7 Presidency member, Secretariat</b> 2.3 <b>M</b> Commission study on successful models for partnerships between developed and developing/ emerging countries and related actors for better land governance and develop strategy based on results – leads: <b>BMZ/GIZ, DFID, UN-Habitat, MoFA-France</b> 2.4 Scope options for new partnerships through the group based on best practice, seek agreement for high potential new partnerships, secure approval to merge existing partnerships under the same national and international monitoring arrangements (such partnerships could also include private sector, civil society organisations and/or multilaterals as partners) – leads: <b>BMZ, DFID</b> 2.5 Publish regular work and policy updates <i>[to be included in communication strategy]</i> - leads: <b>Secretariat + all</b>
<b>(3) Private sector supported to contribute to improved land governance through their core business procedures. Lead: DFID</b>	
<u><b>Work more robustly with the private sector</b></u> (a) support innovative collaborations between private sector, CSOs/NGOs or consultancies to implement VGGT; (b) move beyond VGGT, rai principles and other guidelines, towards an	3.1 Coordinate further rollout of key standards, incl. VGGT, rai; with joint funding as suitable – leads: <b>USAID, DFID, SDC</b> 3.2 <b>M</b> Commission scoping study on most promising tools to make good land governance into a corporate standard and finalise group strategy based on outcome – leads: <b>DFID, USAID, SDC, with inputs from all</b> 3.3 <b>M</b> Jointly with private sector companies and/or business associations wherever possible, and multi stakeholder forums involved as appropriate: Facilitate development of operational guidelines and standards for use by domestic and international companies (especially around grey areas like scope and application of consultation or FPIC principles where the latter have already been adopted; procedures for land acquisition; involuntary settlement), and ensure alignment with relevant international standard-setting processes underway – leads: <b>USAID, DFID, BMZ, FAO, SDC, MoFa-France</b>

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<i>industry-wide standard, or ISO standard, “Fair Land”/“VGGT-certified”</i>	<p>3.4 Agree on key messages and communicate these in regular policy updates <i>[to be included in communication strategy]</i> – leads: <b>USAID, DFID, BMZ with Platform Secretariat</b></p> <p>3.5 <b>M</b> (i) Regular internal meetings to reflect on lessons learnt in collaboration with private sector and identify ways to communicate effectively with the corporate world // <i>merged with 4.2(iii): Offer dialogue forums with private investors in donor countries</i>  (ii) Organize events to which the group invites the private sector on specific issues of business contributing to improved governance <i>[to be included in communication strategy]</i>  –leads: <b>USAID, DFID, IFC, FAO, with Platform Secretariat</b></p> <p>3.6 Promote more meaningful and standardized corporate reporting on land related investments, both voluntary and mandatory – leads: <b>USAID, DFID, SDC with inputs from all</b></p> <p>3.7 Promote efforts to use internationally comparably data/league tables to drive responsible land related investments – leads: <b>USAID, DFID, SDC with inputs from all</b></p>
<b>(4) Donor governments supported to contribute to improved global land governance through coherent approaches. Leads: BMZ / MoFA-France</b>	
<b><u>Engage with home governments</u></b> – towards <i>(a) full implementation of VGGT, incl. extraterritorial investments,  (b) support this through engagement on international rules;  (c) support open contracts,  (d) policy coherence for development; striving for a whole-of-government approach at home and</i>	<p>4.1 (i) Advocate on guidelines and standards for VGGT compliance in donor countries for home public sector investments anywhere,  (ii) Exchange updates and lessons learnt at physical meetings – basis and feedback loop for joint advocacy  (iii) Offer dialogue forums with public and private investors in donor countries  - lead: <b>BMZ/GIZ</b></p> <p>4.2 (i) Advocate on VGGT compliance guidelines and standards in donor countries for home private investments anywhere  (ii) Exchange updates and lessons learnt at physical meetings – basis and feedback loop for joint advocacy  (iii) Offer dialogue forums with private investors in donor countries - leads: <b>USAID, DFID</b></p> <p>4.3 <b>M</b> Commission scoping study on what has worked, discuss priorities for joint engagement at different levels based on study outcomes, develop and implement strategy to “lead by example” as developed country governments – leads: <b>SDC, DFID</b></p>

<b>Headline priorities</b> <i>identified at full group meeting of  28 March 2014<sup>1</sup></i>	<b>Activities 2014-17</b>
<i>abroad</i>	<p>4.4 Publish joint policy brief on comprehensive implementation of VGGT</p> <p>4.5 <b>M</b> Implement comprehensive strategy for universal VGGT implementation at international, regional, national and local levels, including but not restricted to new joint programmes</p> <p>4.6 (i) Work with legal experts to learn the lessons from arbitration of disputes resulting from investment treaties and contracts, (that relate to farmland and similarly structured land related investments), and contribute to ensuring that dispute settlement provisions in treaties and contracts (as well as the substantive applicable law) do not negatively impact food security and the respect of human rights and the environment  (ii) Work with relevant regional and global institutions to improve transparency of investment contracts and investment arbitration, and to mainstream VGGT and other relevant guidelines and principles into international, regional and domestic legal frameworks and investment contracts.  - leads: <b>SDC, DFID</b></p>
<p><b>(Cross-cutting - 5) Global coordination and impact delivery for better land governance strengthened through single open and accessible hub.</b>  <b>Lead: MFA-Netherlands</b></p>	
	<p><b>M (with donor seed funding)</b></p> <p>(i) Explore opportunities and risks of establishing a global hub dealing with information, learning, monitoring, technical support etc. on all matters land governance vs. strengthening existing structures to serve as such a hub.  (ii) Based on the results, the group will decide on taking next steps</p> <p>[Just for internal info and reminder:  <i>This hub could be the repository of commitments for existing and new partnerships, for both coordination, monitoring/accountability, provision of support/capacity building, and for the further expansion of work to include more countries and players, including private sector - In particular, the hub is to support transparent, easily accessible, credible information on land tenure rights and issues in developing countries (i.e. operate a single website with consolidated information on community land rights, location of communities, land legislation, land investments, etc.) and facilitate joined-up capacity building in priority areas.]</i></p>

M – will require a budget (“**Money**”), with minor costs possibly captured as part of the Global Donor Platform’s annual budgets, need to discuss