



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Global Donor Working Group on Land

9th Physical Meeting, Washington-DC

24 March 2017, 09:00 – 15:15

Minutes

Participants:

Mathieu Boche (MFA-France, chair), Andrew Hilton and Marcela Villarreal (FAO), Caroline Plançon, Jorge Muñoz, Klaus Deininger, Thea Hilhorst and Linus Pott (WB), Peter Sidler (SDC), Christian Graefen (GIZ), Fritz Jung (BMZ), Oumar Sylla and Robert Ndugwa (UN-Habitat), Frits van der Wal (MFA-Netherlands), Chris Penrose Buckley (DFID), Jennifer Lisher (MCC), Tomoko Unaki and Suzuka Sugawara-Sato (JICA), Harold Liversage and Elisa Mandelli (IFAD), Heath Cosgrove and Caleb Stevens (USAID), Mark Constantine (IFC), Joachim Knoth (EC), Maria Lodin (Kartverket), David Steuerman (Global Affairs Canada)

Observer:

Sami Frestadius (UN Women Ethiopia)

Platform secretariat:

Romy Sato, Jedi Bukachi

Agenda:

- [Welcome and framing of the agenda](#)
- [Headline Priority 1 \(HP 1\): Transparency on what GDWGL members are doing and coordination on the ground](#)
- [HP2: Using collective voice to influence private sector and investors](#)
- [HP3: Joint action to incentivize action by host governments, incl. VGGT monitoring](#)
- [HP4: Joint action at global level on SDGs, CFS, etc.](#)
- [HP 5: General activities](#)
- [AOB](#)

Summary of decisions

Membership fee: Secretariat to share updates concerning the Donor Platform budget, incl. which membership contributions are still pending for 2017

HP 1:

- Re-engage donors on the ground to ensure that in-country donor meetings take place in Colombia. FAO to share the schedule of meetings they are organising in Colombia, which is the priority country. MFA France and WB will share information regarding donor coordination in Senegal
- Secretariat to follow up with Jeremy Green (USAID) on webinars for embassy staff in partner countries. Secretariat to send as much information in advance to the rest of the group
- Suggested by DFID: Secretariat to see in the Land Map which are the countries where most donors fund projects and send a “call for updates” on national donor coordination on the top 4-5 countries



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HP 2:

- Carry out a simple stock take on where the different DFIs are in the areas of due diligence processes around land issues, VGGT compliance, safeguards, transparency on land contracts, shifting from legal to social licenses (April – June)
- Identify some 'good practice' (by Oct)
- Plan for collective nudging/pushing of DFIs (Oct...)

HP3:

- GDWGL colleagues to send comments on the land issues in the draft G20 Initiative on Rural Youth Employment directly to BMZ

HP 4:

- Custodian agencies (WB and UN-Habitat) to share a work plan of the processes until October 2017 to ensure that the SDG land indicator is classified at least under Tier II by October 2017 (this includes holding the expert group meetings)
- 2-3 members of the GDWGL to form a "Friends of the Custodians" committee in following up on the proposed work plan and to report back to GDWGL on how the Group can support this process; agencies that showed interest to join the committee during the physical meeting included: DFID, Global Affairs Canada and MCC
- Oumar (UN-Habitat) to draft policy brief that the GDWGL will support to ensure that the land indicator will be followed up and moved to Tier II (including the other land indicators). The first draft to be provided by 31 March.

HP 5:

- FAO and EU to draft a policy brief on land and migration which identifies 3-4 important questions that the Group needs to address on this nexus area.
- Improving strategic actions by the Group:
 - Better relate to ministry of finance in partner countries
 - Expand the horizon of the GDWGL discussions to peri-urban land issues
 - (Lead?) Identify countries where ministers are prioritizing land but the financial support is missing – for GDWGL members to consider where they may have some leverage. Send the country suggestions through the secretariat.



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Welcome and framing of the agenda

Mathieu Boche (MFA France) welcomed the participants to the meeting. He stated that the GDWGL is in a critical moment because the past 2 years have been important for partaking in international processes such as negotiating Habitat 3, negotiating land indicators in SDGs and others. The next 18 months are a critical window for the indicator to be classified under Tier 2.

MFA-France emphasized that the land community needs to establish more connections with other topics (such as our side event on land and migration) so it remains central in the development agenda. There is increased uncertainty because of reduced ODA and political changes. Now more than ever donor coordination is important. The GDWGL roadmap will come to an end in 2017 and the Group has the opportunity to review its future objectives when preparing the new roadmap.

HP 1: Transparency on what GDWGL members are doing and coordination on the ground

Improvement of Land Map: Norway and KFW have joined the Map, and the database is as such growing larger. Members were encouraged to update and use the Map regularly.

The secretariat has been faced with budget constraints which have hindered having a consultant to conduct a quality check of the data. The consultancy can go forward later in the year, provided the Platform budget in 2017 allows it.

The support to national donor platforms in the 3 pilot countries Colombia, Senegal and Myanmar was reviewed as follows:

Colombia

World Bank commented that this is the first time that land is part of the peace talks. Additionally, the Colombian government has asked for the WB's support to develop a national cadaster system (worth USD 1.2 billion, out of which the Bank would finance about \$100 million), which IADB will also fund. The World Bank and other partners are also financing an accompany committee which deals with institutional development, follows the peace process and provides capacity for the national institutions to also do so. They expect to have approval of the land project by the WB board by July to launch activities beyond the pilots, helping to ensure continuity regardless of the next elections in July 2018.

Colombia also offers an excellent example of donor coordination – EC, Netherlands, US, WB, France and others. This situation could serve as an example of what conditions allow for better coordination:

1. Political commitment is strong and the government is ready
2. Financial and technical resources were already available at the country level
3. When the preparation of the project came, there were already existing processes from donors at country level which made it easier.

The EC is funding land and ARD activities in the peace process, with indigenous people and Afro-Colombians receiving special attention. Civil society is playing an important role there and donors should provide enough funding for civil society to continue their work.

FAO is focusing on getting people to raise their voices through the VGGTs and working with civil society. There are only 1.5 years of this Colombian government and so a lot of funds going in and this is the precise situation where a lot can go wrong. Donors should work together to make sure the government is coordinating more closely. FAO is supporting family farming policies and farmer to farmer south-south collaboration.



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GIZ remarked that there is a huge pressure to deliver on land outcomes very fast, but land restitution takes a long time, so this is really a question of generations.

USAID reported that coordination meetings on the ground are happening but parallel meetings with some selected donors are also taking place.

Senegal

MFA France and WB will share information regarding donor coordination in Senegal.

Myanmar

An attempt has been made to coordinate donor meetings on the ground and members need to follow up for those meetings to happen. This applies to both the national cadaster and the transition of justice.

Trainings on VGGT for Mission technical staff: A webinar was planned for Dec 4th 2016 but had to be cancelled and a new date has not been agreed yet. Secretariat to follow up with USAID on future webinars for embassy staff in partner countries and to keep the Group timely informed about upcoming webinars.

Decisions

- Secretariat to hire consultant to conduct data quality check of the Land Gov. Programme Map
- Reduce the priority given to Myanmar and focus on Colombia and Senegal in that order.
- Next physical meeting of the group to include updates by donors per specific partner countries (Colombia and Senegal + 2-3 countries with the highest number of donor programmes)
- MFA-France and WB to share info regarding donor coordination in Senegal
- Secretariat to follow up with USAID on future land webinars for embassy staff

HP 2: Using collective voice to influence private sector and investors

Engagement with DFIs on due diligence

DFID proposed the GDWGL to conduct a brief DFI gap analysis, using the Group's collective voice to influence investors and the private sector. The following timeline was proposed:

1. Carry out a simple stock take on where the different DFIs are in the areas of due diligence processes around land issues, VGGT compliance, safeguards, transparency on land contracts, shifting from legal to social licenses (April – June)
2. Identify some 'good practice' (by Oct)
3. Plan for collective nudging/pushing of DFIs (Oct)



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physical meeting_HP2

DFID clarified that the proposal is not for an in-depth research but rather to offer a better understanding on how DFIs are behaving and what donors can do to encourage due diligence.

FAO suggested that processes and tools, such as the French guide to help private sector in complying with the VGGT and the RAI principles, be monitored and assessed to understand what has been achieved



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so far. Private actors have been increasingly calling for consolidated guides instead of multiple ones, and the real challenge is implementation on the ground, so working with them in countries is an important next step. The process of engaging private sector in RAIs needs care to ensure that working with one company in one country does not rubber stamp their investments there, but rather influences the wider private sector behavior.

MFA NL commented that some commercial banks are much further than the DFIs in integrating land and sustainability. For example, ABN banks have discussed with NGOs and included land on their own investments and pressured also other banks. Hence, the focus on DFIs may not be the most helpful.

Decision: The proposal was accepted and implementation will be led by DFID

HP 3: Joint action to incentivise action by host governments, including VGGT monitoring

G20: land governance & rural youth employment: BMZ presented the chapter on improving equitable and sustainable access to land within the G20 initiative for rural youth employment and asked for feedback.

MFA-NL remarked that elements of G7 paper are also part of this G20 paper, and it would be better to align them than pursue different agendas. UN Habitat agreed that it is important and suggested to align this paper with the 2013 Lough Erne G8 Declaration.

MFA-NL also commented that it would be important for the G20 chapter to cover the fact that in many contexts youth only get access to land when their parents die and what can be done about that. Because of such situations, WB noted that it is helpful to work together with older generations on the land, who support the youth in learning how to use and maintain it

Decision: members to provide further comments directly to BMZ

HP4: Joint action at global level on SDGs, CFS etc.

UN-Habitat Robert Ndugwa informed members that SDG land indicator 1.4.2 is currently clarified under Tier III and concerted action is now needed to be able to move this indicator to at least Tier II by October 2017, at the time of the IAEG meeting. The custodian agencies for this indicator are UN-Habitat and WB. The necessary next steps include:

1. A consultative process to review the methodology, update the current metadata and propose a timeframe
2. Hold series of expert group meetings (EGM) – at least 3 until Oct 2017
3. Work on appropriate guides and tools for national agencies that will actually collect the data. In that regard, it is advisable to organise regional workshops with different member states and other stakeholders

WB Klaus Deininger informed that the Bank already has a methodology proposal to define and collect administrative data. Furthermore, they had a good discussion with the African Union to make sure that the SDG land indicator will be integrated in the discussions of the LPI.



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Despite questions about how to collect data regarding the perception element of the indicator, members agreed that the GDWGL focus is not to solve technical problems, but to coordinate and advocate the classification of the land indicator under Tier I by October 2018.

The WB and GLTN are fully committed to the process of ensuring that the SDG land indicator 1.4.2 is classified under Tier II by October 2017 and will follow up with the GDWGL and its sub-group on this issue.

Decisions

- Custodian agencies (WB and UN-Habitat) to share a **work plan** of the processes until Oct 2017 to ensure that the SDG land indicator is classified under Tier II
- 2-3 members of the GDWGL to form a “**Friends of the Custodians**” committee in following up on the proposed work plan and to report back to GDWGL on how the Group can support this process; agencies that showed interest to join the committee during the physical meeting included: DFID, Global Affairs Canada and MCC
- UN-Habitat to draft **policy brief** that the GDWGL will support to ensure that the land indicator will be followed up and moved to Tier II (including the other land indicators). The first draft to be provided by 31 March.

HP5: General activities

Wrap up and Follow up on the “land tenure & migration” session / identification of key messages

Several members of the Group felt that, while the chosen topic and presentations were good, they did not deliver on practical recommendations for donors to the level expected. Additionally, the focus on land grabs by the second speaker missed the much bigger issues such as demographics and youth in Africa.

The EC reported that the Valetta action plan and trust funds for Syria and neighboring countries have no mentions of land. The Group should come up with some points to share with politicians on root causes and consequences of this.

SDC commented that the link to both rural-urban migration and also international migration and conflicts are land based primarily. Politicians need to better understand these links.

UN Habitat mentioned that the issue is much more about building the evidence base and referred to ODI, which is doing an analysis on migration also covering land issues.

EU-funded 5th anniversary of the VGGT: this event is postponed until the CFS in October. EC will circulate details of event, including topics to be covered, and donors should send comments to the EC and FAO.

Organise workshop to develop new GDWGL roadmap 2018-2021: due to upcoming elections period in France, the workshop has to be postponed until a later date, possibly bac-to-back to the CFS in October.

Strategic thinking for the Group: this point focused on how to improve coordination in the Group. Members suggested the following areas:



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- Better relate to ministry of finance in partner countries
- Expand the horizon of the GDWGL discussions to peri-urban land issues
- (Lead?) Identify countries where ministers are prioritizing land but the financial support is missing – for GDWGL members to consider where they may have some leverage. Send the country suggestions through the secretariat.

Follow up on proposal Monitoring and learning processed for responsible land governance: It was agreed that this agenda point will be followed up at another time.

Decisions

- *For the next side event:* establish a ‘research group’ with interested members of this Group to propose questions that need to be answered by the presentations.
- FAO and EU to draft a policy brief on land and migration which identifies 3-4 important questions that the group needs to address on this nexus area. When drafting the policy brief, try to engage the migration community to help with breaking silos.
- EC to share details of the 5th anniversary of the VGGT; donors to send their comments
- Members to identify countries where financial ministers are prioritizing land, but financial support is missing

AOB

FAO proposed for further discussion in this Group: how should we interact with the new LPI institution?
Action: reach out to the new institution to learn more about them, their mandates and plan.

WB informed that it will soon circulate the invitation to all partners to attend the Spring Meetings side event on Friday, April 21, from 10:30 to 12 noon.

Mathieu Boche is moving to AFD as of May 2017, therefore a new focal point from the MFA-France will join and chair this Group until the CFS.

Next steps

Action	Due	Lead
Share updates concerning the Donor Platform budget, incl. which membership contributions are still pending for 2017.	Apr	Secretariat
HP 1: Share the schedule of meetings being organised in Colombia	Apr – May	FAO
HP 1: Share information regarding donor coordination in Senegal		MFA-France and WB
HP1: Follow up on webinars for embassy staff in partner countries.	Apr – Jun	Secretariat + USAID
HP1: In-country donor coordination: “call for updates” on national donor coordination on the top 4-5	Aug – Sep	Secretariat + DFID



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countries		
HP2: Carry out stock take on where the different DFIs are in the areas of due diligence processes around land issues, VGGT compliance, safeguards, transparency on land contracts, shifting from legal to social licenses	Apr – Jun	DFID (lead)
HP2: Identify some ‘good practice’	By Oct	DFID (lead)
HP2: Plan for collective nudging/pushing of DFIs	Oct – Nov	DFID (lead)
HP3: send comments on the land issues in the draft G20 Initiative on Rural Youth Employment directly to BMZ	Mar-Apr	All
HP4: share a work plan of the processes until October 2017 to ensure that the SDG land indicator is classified at least under Tier II by October 2017	31 Mar	UN-Habitat
HP4: Establish “Friends of the Custodians” committee and report back to GDWGL on how the Group can support this process	Mar-Apr	Secretariat + Friends Group
HP4: draft policy brief on GDWGL commitment to ensure that the land indicator is classified under Tier II	31 Mar	UN-Habitat
HP5: Draft a policy brief on land and migration which identifies 3-4 important questions that the group needs to address on this nexus area	Apr – Jun	FAO and EU
HP5: (Lead?) Identify countries where ministers are prioritizing land but the financial support is missing – for GDWGL members to consider where they may have some leverage	?	? + Secretariat
HP5: Share details of the 5 th anniversary of the VGGT; donors to send their comments	Apr-May	EC + All
Africa Land Advisory Group: reach out to them and learn more about their mandate and plans	?	FAO?