



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Platform Policy Brief

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Renewed commitment on Indicator 1.4.2 for achieving global land tenure security in the SDGs

About the authors

This policy brief was prepared by members of the Global Donor Working Group on Land. The views and opinions expressed in this policy brief are solely those of the Group and do not necessarily represent the official views of UN Member States and partner organisations.

About the Global Donor Working Group on Land

In 2013 the Global Donor Working Group on Land was established to support and enhance delivery on improved land governance worldwide. The Working Group is facilitated by the [Global Donor Platform for Rural Development](#) and currently chaired by MoFA-France.

Members of the Group

ADA, AFD, BMEL, BMZ, DFID, EC, GIZ, MoFA-Austria, MoFA-Denmark, MoFA-Finland, MoFA-France, MoFA-Netherlands, SDC, Sida, FAO, JICA, IFAD, MCC, USAID, DFATD-Canada, UN-HABITAT, WB, IFC and Kartverket.

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During the last years, the land community has been mobilised to ensure that land rights are effectively addressed in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a member of the land community, the [Global Donor Working Group on Land](#) is committed to supporting the inclusion of land tenure security and associated indicators in such an important global agenda.

This continuous commitment resulted in the adoption of three specific indicators in the SDGs (1.4.2, 2.3.1 and 5.a.1). These indicators address a range of challenges related to land rights in rural and urban settings by promoting economic development, poverty alleviation, gender equality and women's empowerment. While proposing to both assess progress by governments in documenting and recognizing land and tenure rights and track how people perceive the security of their rights, the indicator 1.4.2 acknowledges the existence of a continuum of land rights. This approach is consistent with the [Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests \(VGGT\)](#), and the [Framework and Guidelines for Land Policy in Africa](#).

The adoption of these indicators, especially the land indicator 1.4.2, is an important achievement of the international land community but the challenge of implementation remains. In order to guide this implementation process, the Inter-Agency and Expert group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators (IAEG-SDGs) tasked UN-Habitat and the World Bank as custodian agencies for the indicator 1.4.2.

The indicator 1.4.2 is currently classified as Tier III because the conceptual clarity on the methodology is being developed and baseline data are being compiled. A concerted effort is needed over the coming months to ensure the indicator achieves Tier II by October 2017 and then Tier I by October 2018, therefore, being definitely incorporated into the formal SDG monitoring process.

The Global Donor Working Group on Land has set up an informal multi-stakeholder committee, the *Friends of the Custodians*, to help the World Bank and UN-Habitat to achieve re-classification of this indicator from Tier III to Tier I by October 2018. The committee is composed by UK-DFID, Global Affairs Canada, The Millennium Challenge Corporation, the International Land Coalition, Omidyar Network and the Global Land Indicators Initiative. They are supporting the custodians to mobilise resources and capacities for expert group meetings, while also coordinating with donors and other stakeholders on gathering critical information (e.g. evidence on survey methodologies) in order to satisfy the criteria for achieving Tier II and, eventually, Tier I status.

In collaboration with the custodian agencies, the Global Donor Working Group on Land will capitalise on upcoming key events to review progress made in the process of the land indicators, for e.g. during the next CFS meeting.