

UN HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) SIDE EVENT – JULY 10, 2017

Land Tenure Security Monitoring in the SDGs: Leaving No One Behind

Progress on Monitoring Tenure Security in SDGs – where are we?

The UN-Habitat, World Bank and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) host of the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII)¹ in collaboration with Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL)² jointly hosted a side event titled *Land Tenure Security Monitoring in the SDGs: Leaving no one behind* at the 2nd High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

United Nations Member States and leaders from civil society, business, UN System, specialized agencies, academia and other stakeholders have been convening in New York from 10 to 19 July 2017 for the annual High-level Political Forum (HLPF) to review progress made towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum is the central UN platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its theme this year is *“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world.”* The HLPF was officially opened on Monday, 10 July 2017, at the UN Headquarters in New York, paving way to National Voluntary Review³ (NVR) of progress made in the implementation of SDGs and multi-stakeholder consultations on means to better deliver shared commitments and promote partnership to maximize performance and address challenges in the implementation of this global agenda.

Happening under the theme *“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”* the important of securing tenure rights could not be well articulated than in the side event *on Land Tenure Security Monitoring in the SDGs: Leaving no one behind*; which located the contribution of tenure security to achieving SDGs 1, 2, 5. **SDG Land Indicator 1.4.2: Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure. This indicator is under SDG 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”, contributing to Target 1.4: by 2030 ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance.** UN Habitat and World Bank are custodian agencies for indicator 1.4.2.

The objective of this side event was to: 1) Create an interactive space for dialogue involving Member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies, and civil society on the contribution of land tenure security in eradicating poverty; 2) Update on the progress made in developing the methodology for measuring indicator 1.4.2; and 3) Discuss strategies for building effective partnerships for addressing tenure security monitoring for meaningful policies for better land governance in support of eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world.

A high level panel constituting of senior officials and experts from various agencies addressed key issues of tenure security monitoring and the SDGs and arrived on key conclusions provided at the end of this report. These were:

Opening and Framing of the Discussion: Why Land matter for the SDGs? By Co-Chairs:

- 1. H.E. Ambassador Dessima Williams, Special Advisor to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Implementation of the SDGs, and**

¹ The Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) is a collaborative and inclusive process for development of nationally applicable and globally comparable land indicators for comparable land data for monitoring of land governance issues and progress towards secure tenure for all a reality. GLII was established in 2012 by Millennium Challenge Corporation, the World Bank and UN-Habitat. Currently with membership of over 50 partner organisations, the platform is hosted and facilitated by Global Land Tool Network (GLTN). Find out more about this initiative at www.gltn.net

² GDWGL is a platform for donors to raise awareness on the importance of land in both national and local economy and to coordinate interventions for more efficiency and impact on the ground.

³ The 2030 Agenda, in paragraph 79, encourages Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels which are country-led and country-driven. The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

2. Heath Cosgrove, Director of the Land and Urban Department, USAID, and Representative of the Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL)

Addressing land tenure security for agriculture development and for job creation: the prospect of IFAD: **David Raymond Suttie, Policy Advisor in IFAD**

Overview of requirements for indicator reclassification within the SDG: **Yongyi Min, Chief of Sustainable Development Goal Unit-IAEG**

Role of the National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) in Monitoring Progress of the SDGs: **Heather Prendergast, the Statistical Institute of Jamaica.**

Dealing with land monitoring within the urban and rural linkages; challenges and opportunities: **Robert Ndugwa, Head of Unit Global Land Observatory, UN-Habitat**

What Model of Partnership is required to Globally Monitor Land Tenure Security? : **Oumar Sylla, Unit Leader at the Land and Global Land Tool Network Unit (GLTN) in UN-Habitat**

Securing Women's Land Rights in the SDGs- reflection from EGM: **Marc Wegerif –Land Rights Policy Lead in Oxfam**

Moderation and Discussions by: **Filiep Decorte, Director of Office of New York, UN-Habitat**

Conclusions: H.E. Ambassador Dessima Williams, **Special Advisor to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Implementation of the SDGs**

Proceedings from High-Level Panel of the Side Event

This side event was moderated by Mr. Filiep Decorte, Director of Office of New York, UN-Habitat who welcomed the co-chairs of the side event H.E. Ambassador Dessima Williams, Special Advisor to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Implementation of the SDGs, and Heath Cosgrove, Director of the Land and Urban Department, USAID, and Representative of the Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL), and other panellists. Acknowledging member states commitment to fight poverty and inequality, Filiep noted the importance of tenure security in advancing social, economic and ecological gains needed to achieve the SDGs. He emphasised on the importance of indicator 1.4.2 and other land indicators included in the SDGs and referenced the provision of tenure security in the New Urban Agenda; noting its significance in rural and urban transformation.



The guest speaker, H.E. Ambassador Dessima Williams, **Special Advisor to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Implementation of the SDGs** acknowledged the inter-connectedness of SDGs and shared aspirations to fight poverty and achieve shared prosperity, leaving no one behind. She noted the importance of land in the SDGs and its contribution to eradicating poverty, a foundational element in food and nutritional security, women empowerment and fighting inequality, building sustainable and resilience cities, fostering peace and security and stability of nations. She underscored the significant link between land and migration challenges, and noted that Land can exacerbate conflicts and bolster peace and stability. She emphasized the need for sound monitoring tools for data collection and measuring progress on tenure security issues, terming it strategic and critical for accountability and transparency, as pillars of sustainable land governance. She underscored the



importance of the rule of law and justice in fighting gender and income inequality, access to economic resources such as land, terming it as bedrock for SDGs, and called on the GDWGL, CSOs and other professional networks to support this worthy cause.



Heath Cosgrove, **Director of the Land and Urban Department, USAID**, reiterated while the **Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL)** commitment to promote international partnership on key global policy and program targets including responsible land governance and tenure rights for all. He noted that secure tenure rights for all is critical in eradicating hunger and access to basic services in urban areas. He spoke of the role of the VGGTs, and CFS in rallying the land community around a unified vision for secure land rights for women, men and

communities around He recognized the efforts made by the land community and the GDWGL to secure indicator 1.4.2 in the SDGs, among other land related targets and indicators, as a step in the right direction. He affirmed that “strong” land governance is measured by “strong land indicators”. He expressed satisfaction with the on-going efforts by custodian agencies in developing a robust methodology for measuring land indicator 1.4.2 and affirmed GDWGL commitment to continue supporting custodian agencies to secure re-classified of this indicator to Tier II by the IAEG-SDGs in October 2017.

David Raymond Suttie, Policy Advisor, **Policy Advisor in IFAD** highlighted the role of land tenure security in agriculture development and job creation. David noted that small holder farmers are the main producers of food, yet majority struggle to have secure tenure rights. He notes the links between SDGs 2 on eradicating hunger and SDG1, indicator 1.4.2, terming this indicator as a backbone to food and nutritional security.



He underscored the importance of monitoring 1.4.2 to ensure that no one is left behind ensure special groups including indigenous people, men and women, and those with undocumented land at included. Lack of secure tenure rights contributes to deforestation and which in turn causes land degradation and increased migration from rural to urban areas, and conflict especially in Africa. He caution that land titling alone does not guarantee secure tenure rights, and in most cases does not involve the least privileged members of the community. Noting the importance of monitoring indicator 1.4.2, he underscored the importance to recognize all tenure types including customary tenure right as supported by this indicator in data collection and reporting at country level.



Yongyi Min, **Chief of Sustainable Development Goal Unit, IAEG** provided an overview of requirements for indicator reclassification in the SDG monitoring framework. Yongyi detailed the process and criteria followed by IAEG-SDGs to classify SDGs indicator in the Tier System from III to I. She highlighted three key areas of consideration for reclassification of the indicators from Tier III to Tier I; as a) Capacity to demonstrate that National Statistics Agencies were consulted in the development of a globally agreed and robust methodology for measuring progress

of a specific indicator, b) How the proposed methodology for measuring the indicator became internal standard and by the approval of which international body (if any), and c) Evidence of pilots conducted in various countries including data from at least 50 countries, with regional representation. Noting the importance of the upcoming IAEG-SDGs, Yongyi noted that 2017 has been a unique year in which IAEG-SDGs accepted fast tracking of reclassification of indicators in the SDGs, enabling review and consideration of the proposed indicators in April 2017 and in October 2017. In the next years, the IAEG-SDGs will only make single reviews for reclassification of the indicators, with this window open until 2020. Acknowledging that the SDGs process is a demanding process for countries and all actors involved, she noted the significance of developing

robust methodology to measure progress on all indicators to ensure countries are able to collect relevant and quality data for measuring progress on SDGs. She noted the significant role of National Statistical Offices in data collection, analysis and reporting on the SDGs; while noting that partnership for capacity strengthening of NSOs and other data agencies including land institutions would be critical to accuracy and efficiency in data capture and reporting. She welcomed the move to request the reclassification of indicator 1.4.2 by the IAEG – SDGs in October, 2017.

Heather Prendergast, **from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica** highlighted the role of the National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) in monitoring progress of the SDGs. She noted that NSOs role is to collect data, analyse and report on the SDGs indicators, in collaboration with other institutions. She noted the importance of securing political buy-in and support from governments to monitoring land governance issues; conducting public education and awareness raising on importance of data in monitoring progress in the SDGs including land indicators. She notes the importance of collaboration between relevant ministries and agencies working on land and data agencies, to ensure coordination of data infrastructure and so that no one is left behind. She further, noted the need to improve data production methodologies including production of land administration records, use of household surveys versus individual population surveys which may require bigger sample sizes as will be required by indicator 1.4.2; and overall technical support to enhance capacities in data management. She underscored the importance of coordination of key players in the land and data community that foster partnership; facilitate capacity building and technical assistance for NSOs to deliver on its role.



Robert Ndugwa, **Head of Global Urban Observatory Unit in UN-Habitat** highlighted progress made by custodian agencies in the development of methodology for measuring tenure security indicator 1.4.2. He enumerated steps taken by the custodian agencies and with support of GLII, and the GDWGL in hosting technical expert and consultation meetings on methodology and data needs for measuring this indicator including use of household survey, administrative data and geo-spatial data. Review of data available to support the reclassification of this indicator is currently underway in consultation with NSOs, survey agencies, DGWGL and other stakeholders.



Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) had representation from National Statistical Offices, land institutions, CSOs and other stakeholders.

A list of questions for data collection for this indicator to be integrated in household surveys (like DHS, MICS and LSMS) was developed and validated by experts in an EGM held in May 2017. The meeting on use of administrative data reflected on standards for production and use of administrative data in monitoring this indicator. Robert noted the importance of partnership with NSOs, land and data communities to ensure the proposed methodology is sound and robust. He noted that the New Urban Agenda adopted by member states in October 2016, underscore the importance of secure tenure in promoting sustainable and resilient urbanization, affirming the importance of rural urban linkages in promoting sustainable land governance as promoted by Indicator 1.4.2. Custodian agencies are working towards securing re-classification of this indicator from Tier III to II by October 2017 and Tier I by end of 2018.



Oumar Sylla, **Unit Leader at the Land and Global Land Tool Network Unit (GLTN) in UN-Habitat**, called on participants to embrace the implementation of the SDGs. He emphasized that indicator 1.4.2 recognizes both administrative data and data on perception of tenure security by types of tenure; embracing the continuum of land rights in measuring tenure security for all. Indicator 1.4.2 presents an opportunity to ensure robustness and

comparability of methodology for measuring progress at country level is achieved. He expressed the need for stronger national and regional institutions to deal with tenure security challenges in land governance and its monitoring. He further highlighted that capacity development in the land sector goes beyond merely helping state institutions to regulate the land market, but called for greater emphasis on combatting inequality in secure land rights, including safeguarding women's land rights and rights of indigenous communities. He underscored the need to build on existing synergies and recognized the strong support offered by the GDWGL, and H.E. Ambassador Dessima Williams in the Office of the President of the General Assembly; which he termed as commendable. He noted the importance of building on existing initiatives that bring together land and data communities to inform the measurement of this indicator including the on-going GLII initiative.

Marc Wegerif, **Land Rights Policy Lead in OXFAM** representing the CSOs and sharing a communique from participants of an EGM on Securing Women's Land Rights in the SDGs' held on 8-9 July, 2017 and co-hosted by the GLII, Oxfam, Landesa, Huairou Commission and UN Women in New York, emphasized the need for a greater attention on the measuring progress and advancing women's land rights. Noting the importance of partnership and coordination of key stakeholders, he praised the diversity of participants in the concluded EGM on women's land; and the composition of the panellist in this side event, expressing satisfaction in having men and women from national statistical organizations, UN agencies, multilateral agencies, custodian agencies, civil society groups, land groups, and women's organizations coming together around the common challenge and opportunity to advance secure land rights including women's land rights in the context of SDGs. He commended GLII for providing strategic spaces for dialogue on monitoring land governance issues and improving women's land rights in the context of SDGs and other frameworks on land governance. He affirmed the importance of tenure security indicator 1.4.2 in advancing secure tenure rights for women and rights of indigenous communities. He emphasised on the need to finalise the methodology and secure reclassification to Tier II, to have countries start data collection and immediately reporting to enable track progress in securing women's land and community land rights. He echoed the need for robust and global comparable methodologies to facilitate access to gender disaggregated data on land.



Noting that women are not a homogenous group, he reminded participants to pay attention to specific situations of women in customary land, women in conflict situations, displaced women, and women from other marginalized groups to ensure no one is left behind and to achieve the SDGs. He called on all the delegates at the High Level Political Forum to rally efforts at devising solutions to these challenges by building on existing initiatives, while ensuring the successful reclassification of indicator 1.4.2, 5.a. 2 and other land indicators related to women's land rights in the October meeting of the IAEG-SDGs. He emphasised on the need to ensure all data is gathered in a transparent and inclusive manner, with expanded space for CSOs participation. **See the key Messages and Recommendations from the Expert Group Meeting on Women Land Rights to the UN member states at the HLPF in a separate document attached.**

Conclusions from this side event

Conclusions by Ambassador H.E. Ambassador Dessima Williams however reiterated the call for monitoring and capacity building in an effort to deliver on the SDGs and to truly make land count. From the speakers contribution the following conclusions were made:

Summary Affirmation of the Importance of Secure Tenure Rights in Achieving SDG 1 and other Goals

- Secure tenure has strong relationship with social, economic and ecological development around the world, hence important for achieving sustainable development goal 1, 2, 5, 11, 15, 16 and other goals.
- Secure tenure rights for all can be a source of conflict but can also be an ingredient for peace and stability hence must be promoted and protected.
- Monitoring of tenure security must recognize all tenure types including customary tenure rights as provided for by indicator 1.4.2 and in support of continuum of land rights.
- Secure women's land rights are key in achieving SDGs including 1, 2, 5, 10 among other goals. However, women are not homogenous groups and their diverse tenure rights must be recognized.
- Resilient and sustainable urban development including Slum development is related to land use planning, which affect access to housing, infrastructure, water, sanitation and other basic services.
- Secure tenure rights for all is underscored and given prominence in the VGGTs, and recently in SDGs and NUA, raising global importance of responsible land governance for sustainable development.
- Monitoring of land governance issues remains paramount for fighting inequality, poverty and to facilitate policy reforms and programming at country level.

Summary Recommendation for the On-Going Process of Developing Global Methodology for Monitoring Progress on Indicator 1.4.2

- Public education and awareness of the importance of monitoring tenure security is needed to drive support for monitoring indicator 1.4.2 at country level.
- Capacity building for Land agencies and National Statistical Offices in new data production methods including surveys/earth observation, and for other data agencies, CSOs is needed to ensure quality data for monitoring and reporting on indicator 1.4.2 and other land indicators.
- A partnership between land institutions and NSOs is paramount to ensure improved data quality and infrastructure for collection and reporting on this indicator in the SDGs.
- Land data must be disaggregated to ensure monitoring of secure tenure rights for women.
- Need to strengthen access to relevant tools for monitoring and evaluating the development and progress of secure tenure rights for all in the SDGs and foster links with other regional/global frameworks like VGGTs.
- Need to implement public and private partnership in monitoring tenure security and evaluation of impact of land governance policies and programs.
- Expand the space for CSOs, academia, research and other stakeholders' engagement data collection and reporting on tenure security indicator 1.4.2 at all levels, while ensuring transparency in processes of monitoring and reporting.
- Custodian agencies to pursue the re-classification of indicator 1.4.2 in October by the IAEG-SDGs to facilitate countries data collection and reporting on this indicator.
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder coordination, collaboration and convening of national institutions, regional and global bodies for continuous dialogue, experience sharing and foster accountability and capacity building in monitoring of tenure security issues.

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