



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

# 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Session 3**

**DAY 2**  
**15 June 2022**  
**9:10-10:40**

**SESSION BY THE GLOBAL DONOR WORKING GROUP ON LAND (GDWGL)**

## **Responsible Land-Based Investing as a Strategy to Mitigate the Harms of a New Food Crisis**

### **BACKGROUND**

This year's theme for the Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) will be "Implementing National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation to Accelerate Progress Towards the SDGs in Times of Crisis and Conflict."

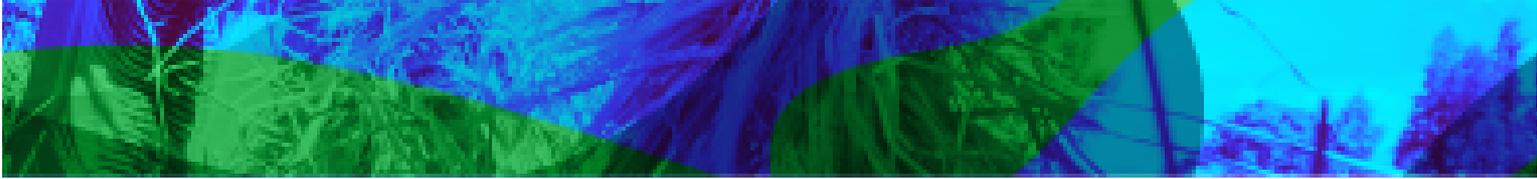
The meeting provides an opportunity to focus on the role of donor coordination to promote resilient food systems. In addition, it provides an opportunity to discuss strategies to respond to a growing food crisis driven by an on-going conflict. Crises of different kinds – climate-related, geopolitical, economic– are sure to continue. A focus on the role land governance can play in responding to such crises and supporting resilient food systems can provide important insights and potential strategies for future policy development and programming.

The GDWGL session at the 2022 AGA will explore one of the group's key work streams to share lessons learned from the land sector's response to the 2007/2008 food crisis. Since its inception, the GDWGL has worked to analyze and address the problem of land grabbing associated with the previous food crisis. While the problem of land grabbing by powerful elites is not new, the scale of land grabbing and the consequences to local peoples and environments were significant and significantly negative.

Key donor strategies to respond to the problems caused by the displacement of people were to support policy reforms, programming, tools and guidance documents for communities, governments and the private sector to enable responsible land-based investments. Many of these people who experience displacement are subsistence or small farmers who then lose access to resources like water, forests, pastures, and the related loss of livelihoods.

**FOR MORE INFO:** [www.donorplatform.org/event-detail-general/id-2022-platform-annual-general-assembly.html](http://www.donorplatform.org/event-detail-general/id-2022-platform-annual-general-assembly.html)

Photo: ©IFAD/Francesco Cabras



This session will provide a brief framing of how the previous food crisis also contributed to a land governance crisis. The session will then discuss:

1. **Advocacy efforts** at the international and national levels to address land grabbing associated with the food crisis.
2. **Programming examples** designed to address and encourage responsible land-based investing.
3. **Review open questions** still prevalent to understand how improvements to land governance can mitigate the threat of land grabs that may exacerbate food insecurity.

The session will explore how lessons from these experiences may, or may not, apply to the current food crisis. Nearly 15 years later - have enough changes been made to land governance systems to ensure that another massive land control transfer from smallholders to investors is avoided and how is this work contributing to the SDGs?

## Agenda

### Moderated by:

- **Henry Bonsu**, Journalist and Broadcaster

### Panellists:

- **Chris Penrose-Buckley**, Senior Adviser, Land Policy, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK
- **Karol Boudreaux**, Senior Land and Resource Governance Advisor, USAID, and Chair, Global Donor Working Group on Land
- **Gemma Betsema**, Senior Programme Advisor, Netherlands Enterprise and Development Agency, and Vice Chair, Global Donor Working Group on Land
- **Francisco Marques**, Technical Specialist, Private Sector, International Fund for Agricultural Development
- **Michael Taylor**, Director, International Land Coalition Secretariat at International Fund for Agricultural Development