



World Bank Land and Poverty Conference 2019

GDWGL Policy Session

How to achieve the SDG Goals and Global Commitments on Land? **Thursday, 28th March, 10:30 – 12:00h EST, room tbc**

The Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests and Fisheries (VGGT) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide the global framework for land governance. But despite significant progress establishing the VGGT as a global normative framework and the inclusion of land indicators in the SDGs, the scale of global tenure insecurity, rising land rights violations, and ever-growing pressure on land suggests current progress trajectories and approaches are not enough to close the gap significantly by 2030.

“Only 10% of rural land in Africa is registered” is a widely used statistic to highlight the scale of the challenge even if it is, at best, a good estimate. It therefore also highlights the data gap that has made it hard to set global targets let alone monitor progress. New data to monitor the SDGs and other data sources (e.g. Prindex) that can help promote reforms needed to achieve the SDGs, are now coming online and will enable us to set targets, monitor progress more effectively, and deepen national policy discussions.

This is encouraging but raises a more basic set of questions: are current global efforts to secure tenure rights and establish effective and transparent land governance systems on track to deliver by 2030? If bilateral funding and concessional finance are insufficient, how can we leverage more national public investment and private finance? Are current approaches to strengthening tenure rights and promoting land governance effective or do we need a new and different approaches?

Format

This GDWGL interactive session will bring together stakeholders and specialists from civil society, think tanks, governments, international organisations and others. It will include a moderated discussion between key stakeholders to explore some of the questions below with plenty of opportunities for audience questions and comments.

- Are current efforts and investment to strengthen tenure security globally on track to achieve a X% reduction in tenure insecurity for men and women?
- After the significant focus on VGGT implementation over the last 5+ years, are we seeing a significant change in practice and positive trends? What are the key practices we should be looking for at national level?
- Do we need a specific target on land to focus global action? Note that the current 1.4.2 ‘goal’ does not include a target. It simply states: “Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land...”. Would a clear ‘target proportion’, e.g. 80% ?, help focus global efforts?
- How do we leverage more finance for land governance reform in priority countries? Even with a significant increase in bilateral funding, the scale of the challenge requires funding commitments from other sources, including concessional and private finance.

- Are funds being utilized effectively and are there more efficient and innovative ways, e.g. than traditional bank loans and restrictive donor project funding? What has proven so far to be the most efficient and effective way to utilize funds for land governance reforms/improvements?
- What role should donors and the GDWGL play in mobilising new funds or different approaches?

Expected outcome:

The aim of this GDWGL session is to open up space for a more strategic, global discussion about whether we are on track to achieve significant progress on land by 2030 and what targets, financing and approach is needed to get us there. It will inform global advocacy work of the GDWGL and will, we hope, facilitate a more joined-up debate about what is needed and how we need to think and organise ourselves differently to drive progress.

Draft Running Order:

- Introduction by GDWGL Chair (5mins)
- Brief presentation on existing global data on progress (against SDGs, VGGT) and on financing for land governance (10mins)
- Moderated discussion (not presentations) with directed questions to a panel, including: International Organisations; CSOs; academics/think tanks; donors/foundations; governments (45mins)
- Questions & discussion with audience, including use of moderation tool SLIDO so everyone can join in the debate (30mins)

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