

GDWGL 2022-2024 Work Agenda Proposal (US/Netherlands chairs)

Revised Draft: April 11, 2022

The US and the Netherlands are pleased to lead the GDWGL between October 2022 and October 2024. The GDWGL finds itself at an important moment. After ten years of work, more donors and organizations are aware of the central role of land in promoting sustainable and equitable development. Over these years, the GDWGL has supported efforts to develop land indicators for the 2030 Agenda, identify options for data collection, encourage responsible land-based investing, support programmatic and events coordination, develop a Code of Conduct, and identify opportunities to integrate land into critical workstreams such as the recent UN Food Systems Summit. During our tenure, the chairs will prioritize the following: promoting continued collaboration across donors, celebrating the VGGT 10-year anniversary, supporting members to develop an anticipated comparative report on land governance, sharing the growing evidence base related to land at an Evidence Summit in 2022, and supporting efforts to promote a Land Summit related to the Framework for Action in 2023. As part of these efforts and activities we will work closely with the wider land governance community, including ILC, GLTN, Land Portal and research networks, and utilize different platforms for exchange such as the World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty and the CFS.

Our proposed work plan is outlined below.

1. Building on the preceding (2018-2020) work plan we will continue to engage as a group to promote the importance of land tenure security and land governance

- Members of the group agree that the issues of tenure security and land governance sit firmly at the nexus of several critical global development agendas including ensuring sustainable food systems, mitigating and adapting to climate change, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable economic growth, and empowering women, Indigenous Peoples and other populations to promote equity and reduce inequality.
- Much of the group's work over the past several years has laid an important foundation for continued collective action to enhance tenure security and strengthen land governance systems. Past work has helped to:
 - Support development of robust land-related indicators, promote robust data collection and rigorous analysis to ensure land is featured among the SDG indicators;
 - identify and address concerns related to large-scale land-based investment and acquisition;
 - promote gender and social equity through secure land holding in alignment with the VGGT; and,
 - conceptualize a new flagship publication that will help identify a baseline of tenure security and governance concerns against which progress can be tracked and to enable deeper dives into critical themes and issues.
- Members see a strategic opportunity to build on the momentum around land to raise awareness of the central role land plays in achieving priority development objectives by coordinating efforts to conduct research, design and implement programming around key issues and themes, disseminate and share evaluation findings and lessons from past interventions to expand understanding of what works to deliver tenure security and good land governance, advocate for needed reforms, policy changes and activities, and support collaborative events with goals of enabling more people to benefit from good land governance and increasing the attention to and funding for new, renewed or expanded commitments to improve tenure security and land governance.

- To carry this work forward, the GDWGL will continue to follow the structural approach it adopted in the previous (2018-2020) workplan. The GDWGL adopts a two-track approach whereby:
 - Track 1:** focuses on strategic functions and thematic priorities of concern to the whole group; and
 - Track 2:** focuses on topics or emerging themes of interest to some, but not all members, and with no clear collective role for the group. Under this track the group will continue to support bilateral work on these themes and in groupings to-be-determined, based on interests and priorities.
- During virtual and physical meetings discussion will primarily focus on progress against Track 1 efforts, though space will be reserved to update the group on Track 2 developments that members feel may be of interest to the broader group. The collective resources of the group (including conference speaking slots and platform budget) will, generally, only be used to advance Track 1 priorities (but with flexibility to agree exceptions).
- Priorities for Track 1 for this work plan are laid out below. Should an important window of opportunity arise or important barriers to progress develop, the group may revisit the current list of priorities and consider if they need to be adjusted based on group consensus.

Track 1:

- a) **Exchange on individual members’ work on land, including key priorities, developments and challenges.** The GDWGL will continue to devote regular time for conversations around priorities and challenges. The group recognizes that virtual formats make longer meetings challenging and so agendas may need to be more compressed than for in-person meetings.
- b) **Global advocacy:** The GDWGL agrees that global advocacy on tenure security and land governance remains important. To promote needed change, we may draw on existing efforts, such as the Framework for Action, to prioritize advocacy topics. Wherever possible these issues will be aligned with global or high-level events such as future COPs and other key dates and global events as identified below in this document.
- c) **Promoting country-level coordination:** The GDWGL welcomes the opportunity to improve program coordination at the country level. We will continue to explore opportunities for coordinated/joint pilot projects or activities. In addition, we will continue to work to identify a cost-effective solution to maintain and regularly updating the Land Governance Programme map.

Track 2: Topics to address may include (but are not limited to):

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| a) Youth access to land | b) Land transparency |
| c) Urban-rural linkages | d) Land technologies |
| e) Land data/open data | f) Environmental and Human Rights defenders |

2. GDWGL Work Priorities 2022-2024

The following priorities are proposed for collective group work under Track 1 over the coming 2 years (through until Oct 2024).

A. Exchange between members on respective land work

We agree that member exchanges remain valuable in order to learn from each other and share insights and experiences, and will we facilitate exchanges on current work by polling members in advance of meetings to identify who is interested in providing updates or sponsoring discussions with external speakers to create additional value for all. This will happen by:

- Including **scheduled time for members to update each other on work, research, conferences, etc.** To make exchange as effective as possible we will ask presenting members to also come up with ideas/ suggestions of how the group could support/ join.
- **Creating opportunities for individual members to share deeper dives** on specific work or developments of wider interest and/or to sponsor speakers whose work relates to topics of interest to the broad group. Members will be actively approached to provide ideas for this.

B. Global Advocacy

Following on past work, which has supported efforts to implement the VGGTs, ensure that land indicators are included in the SDGs, address concerns related to large-scale land-based investment and acquisition, and promote gender and social equity. For this work plan we proposed our efforts support the following:

- **Support activities to recognize and celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the endorsement of the VGGT** – including through webinars, blog posts, opinion editorials and other activities among members. This activity could, potentially, span the 12-months from May 2022 to May 2023 and should regularly leverage the redesigned GDWGL website through a “featured” page.
- **Support activities to complement and amplify tenure messages** at the Conferences of the Parties that take place during this work plan’s timeframe. This can include: sharing member information related to the COPs in the GDWGL website; seeking opportunities to collaborate to support mutually agreed upon positions; drafting short blog posts or material that can be shared through social media outlets that draws attention to the role of tenure in the COPs and underscores the need to secure tenure and promote good land governance as a pathway to reduce desertification and deforestation, promote resilience and adaptive capacities, and protect biodiversity.
- **Leverage the newly redesigned GDWGL website to raise awareness** of the critical linkages between tenure security and land governance and global development agendas including sustainable rural and urban land investment; climate adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems; social empowerment, gender equality and resilience; and peace, stability, and security. We will use the revised website to share research, blog posts, other materials members develop to drive attention to these issues and provide evidence-based, accessible information for policy and decision makers to support the goal of increasing funding and commitment to these issues.
- **Support the dissemination of rigorous evidence** from over one dozen impact evaluations in the land sector and sponsor an Evidence Summit later in 2022 to share and discuss methodologies; draw key lessons learned from this body of work; identify common challenges associated with evaluations in the land sector; identify and discuss important gaps in the evidence base; and, identify opportunities build on these lessons to improve future land programming.
- **Support efforts to hold a Land Summit related to the launch of the Framework for Action** likely during 2023. This may include the following activities: endorse the Framework for Action as a TWG of the Global Donor Rural Platform; support for panels and or presentations that align with priority topics or themes, support for a Side Event on a priority topic, support via the GDWGL website to raise awareness. Specific support will be discussed at meetings in 2022. This Summit would be distinct from the World Bank’s Annual Conference on Land and Poverty and members would expect to continue collaboration and support at that event also.

C. Country-level Coordination

We continue to see important opportunities to coordinate around county-level engagement on land issues, including through new program design efforts and engagement at the policy and operational level with country partners. To advance country coordination among members we propose the following as next steps:

- **Organize a follow-up exchange with the Secretariat of the Food Systems Agenda** to discuss and identify ways in which GDWGL can align its efforts more efficiently and effectively to the ongoing implementation of the agenda, including alignment with National Pathways for Food Systems Action in countries where GDWGL members are engaging. Within the GDWGL we have a number of UN organizations (FAO, IFAD, others) who are already assigned to take up that role of broker within the Food Systems agenda. As part of this role they are connecting country-level needs with thematic groups who offer their knowledge/ networks/ support. We may look to complement this activity with a joint activity with the GDRP TWG on SDG 2.
- **Identify priority countries where work can align institutional interests**, and affect change at scale and align work with Framework for Action themes to encourage needed policy reforms, support innovative and/or practical approaches to securing legitimate tenure rights, promoting equitable outcomes and contributing to development objectives related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, conflict and peacebuilding, equitable growth, and social empowerment. We propose creating a country-level coordination sub-working group with the goal to initiate country-focused exchanges between members. These exchanges should help the group to identify concrete opportunities for joint learning, exchange and possible joint programming in countries where multiple GDWGL members are engaging.
- **Develop an initial set of short “lessons learned” documents** that highlight examples of how and where country-level coordination has taken place, lessons learned from these efforts (including on sequencing and modalities) and recommendations for future collaborative engagement at the country level. Briefs may follow a standard format and will be shared on the GDWGL website and disseminated by members as is most useful. The 2019 Code of Conduct will be reviewed to see how it fits into these discussions/ how we can build on that work.
- **Finalize a decision around how best to update and manage the Land Governance Programme map.** Depending upon the decision taken, members will either need to: i) support the Global Donor Platform Secretariat to update the map by sharing more recent information about their land programs, or ii) support a transition of the map away from the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development to a different service provider, or iii) likely decide to remove the now out-of-date map from the updated GDWGL website.

Key dates and (likely) global events for GDWGL engagement in 2022-24:

2022

- Land Conference South Africa (dates to be confirmed), South Africa
- UNCCD 15th session of the Conference of the Parties ‘Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity’
- 21 May-26 May Global Land Forum ILC, Jordan
- 29 June-1 July LANDac International Land Conference, the Netherlands
- 11-15 September FIG Congress 2022, Poland
- 8-20 November, UN Climate Change Conference (COP) 2022, Egypt
- 21-25 November Fifth India Land and Development Conference, India

2023

- March, World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, US
- 22-24 March, UN Water Conference 2023, US
- 28 May-1 June, FIG Working Week, US
- June, LANDac International Land Conference, the Netherlands
- 6-17 November, UN Climate Change Conference (COP) 2023, UAE

2024

- March, World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty
- June, LANDac International Land Conference, the Netherlands
- 11-22 November, UN Climate Change Conference (COP) 2024, tbc

The Group will continue to add events drawing on Group knowledge and resources and events posted on the Land Portal (www.landportal.info).