GDWGL 2018-2020 Work Agenda Proposal (covering DFID and SDC chairs)   *22 January 2019*

1. **Focusing collective work of the group**

    - Many members agree that work of the GDWGL is currently is fragmented across too many themes and issues which reduces effectiveness of meetings and reduces strategic focus of the group

    - To address this, we propose a clearer distinction between:

      Track 1: strategic functions and thematic priorities of concern to the whole group

      Track 2: topics or emerging themes of interest to some members, but not all, and with no clear collective role for the group. The group should continue to support bilateral work on these themes by relevant members, based on interests and priorities.

    - Physical meetings and calls would largely focus on Track 1 items, with space for updates on key Track 2 developments limited to the usual round table exchanges. Collective resources of the group (including conference speaking slots and platform budget) would generally only be used to advance Track 1 priorities (but with flexibility to agree exceptions).

    - The following division of priorities would be revisited from time to time as track 2 items may become a strategic priority the group may want to engage on.

Track 1:

a) **Exchange on individual members' work on land, including key priorities, developments and challenges**: most members affirmed this as a key value of the group but many also noted that space for this has been squeezed by a long agenda, with limited time for round tables or presentation on specific work by some members that is of wider interest. Providing more space for this would also support the next priority on coordination. In practice these exchanges would be expected to include Track 2 themes below but as updates on members' activities rather than as a standing workplan item.

b) **Global advocacy**: all members agreed that global advocacy on land governance remains important, but the question is advocacy on *what issue* and can we give it sufficient focus? We should distinguish between reactive opportunities linked to specific events or developments (e.g. WUF or HLFP) and proactive priorities (strategic issues the group wants to address). The main focus for Track 1 should be proactive priorities, where the group wants to collectively influence an issue or advance a position on land. Over the last two years this work has focussed significantly on the SDG indicator agenda. Going forward we suggest the default priority for proactive advocacy should be **promoting progress towards achieving SDG land goals** (as a useful political rallying point) and **making the case for (increased) funding of/investment in good land governance (in line with VGGT) as a key priority within the global development agenda**.

c) **Promoting country-level coordination**: again, most members continue to see efforts to improve programmatic coordination at the country level as a key priority if not raison d'être of the group. While decentralised delivery structures within most members make this difficult for a global group, the lack of data on new programme development and an established process to share and review plans on new land programmes within the group makes it more difficult still. The land governance map is not forward looking and is also difficult to filter for the sub-set of programmes where coordination is most needed and meaningful.

Track 2:

a) Responsible investment in land   b) Land transparency
c) Urban land governance   d) Land and conflict
e) Women's land rights campaign   f) Human Rights defenders
g) Operational planning on SDG 1.4.2 and 5(a)1   h) etc

2. GDWGL Work Priorities 2018-2020

The following priorities are proposed for collective group work under Track 1 over the coming 2 years (i.e. until Oct 2020).

A. Exchange between members on respective land work

We already do this, so this is simply to underline the value and importance of these exchanges and ensure we facilitate this more intentionally with more time set aside for this in our meetings and new and dynamic ways of making these sessions effective and interesting.

1   Include routine round table in physical meetings and calls for member updates

2   Create space in agenda for individual members to do 'deep-dives' on specific work or developments of wider interest (this would be largely to inform members not to generate joint work)

B. Global Advocacy

After sustained work on VGGT and, over the last 2 years, on SDG land indicators (but with unfinished business to get key indicators to Tier 1) we propose shifting the focus to the global efforts needed to **achieve the Global Goals on land (even if no specific target was set) including the continued commitments and aspirations around VGGT implementation**. All members agree that land governance remains a key priority and foundation for many other development objectives. But the case for continued or even increased investment in land governance, and more effective investment, still needs to be made by the group, both in the global development arena, with partner countries and in support of individual members' internal advocacy.

How can we do this strategically over the coming 2 years? Here are some proposals to take this work forward in the coming 2 years for discussion:

3   Commission a stock-take of donor and national government funding for land governance, **to establish a baseline of current funding/investment.** Linked to this, commission **analysis of the cost of securing tenure rights of x% of populations and improving land governance systems to a minimum standard** in a set of countries. This would provide some context and benchmarks for the group to define some targets or commitments (possibly in consultation with other global stakeholders). It would also enable the group to identify the current *investment gap* and instigate discussions on how to close it.

4   Commission a study to assess and, in some way, **quantify the cost of weak land governance and insecure tenure rights to country economies**, e.g. in terms of foregone investment, weaker growth and market development, etc.

5   Use above findings to inform panels or key policy discussions on SDGs or VGGT implementation (including HLFP) and, possibly, organise a high-level GDWGL event to discuss land investment, e.g. with governments at WB land conference. See below for outline event timetable.

6   Thirdly, commission a review or stock-take of current members research on land governance (apart from impact assessments) to identify key gaps and inform a joint research agenda.

C. Country-level Coordination

The single most important opportunity for coordination is around new programme design, particularly for larger-scale land governance programmes (e.g. >€10m) working directly with government agencies. To advance country coordination along these lines we propose as next steps:

7   Commission a piece of work to collate data from members on planned new large-scale land programmes with governments over coming 2-3 years (precise parameters to be defined). And then use this analysis (essentially as spreadsheet) to inform regular 'coordination sessions' in physical meetings to 'peer-review' planned new programme ideas or plans and discuss how to align activities. This could also be turned into a live group spreadsheet on SharePoint that members could consult and update.

8   Develop a light GDWGL 'code of conduct' on coordination, setting out what members are expected to do to support country-level and wider coordination of activities

9   Commission a revamp of the Land Governance Programme Map, which should include data quality check and improvement of the navigation, eliminating old filters, inserting new ones and other features according to a concept of the added value of the Map.

Key dates and global events for GDWGL engagement in 2019-20:

<u>2019</u>

March: WB Land Conference

May-June: Donor Platform Annual General Assembly

July: HLPF in New York

September: SDG Summit at UNGA

October: CFS

November: Conference on Land Policy in Africa, Abidjan CDI

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<u>2020</u>

February: World Urban Forum, Dubai

March: WB Land Conference

July: HLPF

October: CFS

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END