



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

## GDWGL Telco Minutes

28 January 2020

### Participants:

1. Peter Sidler – SDC (Chair)
2. Javier Molina Cruz – FAO (Vice-Chair)
3. Amy Regas – Omidyar Network
4. Caleb Stevens – USAID
5. Chris Penrose-Buckley – DFID
6. Claire McConnell - DFID
7. Dominik Wellmann – GIZ
8. Everlyne Nairesiae – UN-Habitat/GLII
9. Jennifer Lisher – MCC
10. Nora Boehm – BMZ
11. Oumar Sylla – UN Habitat/GLTN
12. Rik Wouters – Netherlands Enterprise Agency
13. Robert Lewis Lettington– UN Habitat
14. Thea Hilhorst– World Bank

### Secretariat:

1. Manuel Urrutia
2. Sylvia Otieno

### Main decisions:

#### Main Decisions

- **Discussion Note on Scale up of Global Land Agenda Background and Update:** Members requested to read the discussion note and confirm their interest in working further on it. Thereafter, an informal meeting with interested members to be organized during the WB conference to substantively discuss it.
- **GLGR concept note update:** FAO, ILC and GLTN to discuss this further. The latest version of the concept note will be shared with interested GDWGL members 2<sup>nd</sup> half of February and will serve as basis for the planned WB GLGR consultation meeting.
- **Strategic Partners Participation and CSOs Engagement Criteria:** Secretariat requested to resend the two documents as a separate email. Comments should be sent in two weeks, approval on non-objection basis.
- **GDWGL- Member 'Code of Conduct' on Country-Level Coordination:** Members reminded to share this document with their country-level partners.
- **Land Map and Manuel's replacement:** Members to be informed as soon as decisions are made.
- **GDWGL involvement in fora such as the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:** Secretariat requested to make a screening of upcoming fora where GDWGL members can informally join forces for a joint intervention.

### 1. Member Update Round Table

Omidyar Network: First, the Omidyar Network's Property Rights Initiative has now evolved into Place Fund, an independent organization that continue to do the same type of work as in the past, including the management of Omidyar Network property rights investments. Second is a heads up to members that due to an investment made towards the end of last year, data collected by Terranova on Property Rights in Brazil over the last 20 years will be available for research purposes.

DFID: Firstly, the procurement for the new Land Programme - Africa Land Facility (project information note circulated via email to GDWGL on 9 January) has begun. There is an event scheduled on 13 February for organizations who want to bid for two components: the first one focuses on land administration and capacity building; the second on land investment approval processes and working with land investment promotion agencies. Secondly, they are currently pulling together input for a General Comment on Land to Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which provides authoritative interpretations of [the International Covenant](#)

[on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (ICESCR) (note circulated on 16 January). USAID is interested in contributing. Any other members interested in contributing are requested to reach out to DFID for a joint submission in the coming weeks.

GIZ: Two countries have been added to the portfolio of the Global Project Responsible Land Policy (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire) and components working on Responsible Land Investment are starting in Uganda, Laos and Ethiopia. Additionally, in Ethiopia a new bilateral project focusing on land consolidation is taking shape. There are plans to start a new project in Senegal in July 2020 and GIZ is currently developing a project on Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development with a land component in Namibia.

MCC: The work in Sri Lanka is temporarily paused. Work is beginning in Solomon Islands, which was also selected as eligible with a constraint in land. On the monitoring and evaluation side, their teams are currently in Mozambique and Capo Verde undertaking urban data collection. MCC is pulling back from Burkina Faso's data evaluation due to recent security concerns, and so they are unable to provide results data but are hoping to do some sort of evaluation there.

BMZ: The recent financial agreement with the Rights and Resources Initiative is starting to be disbursed this year over the course of the next 3 years to finance their overall programme. Looking forward to focusing more on land rights and forestry nexus.

Netherlands Enterprise Agency: Final presentation on LAND-at-Scale Programme will be given at the next GDWGL physical meeting in March. Two members of their team will be in DC for the WB Conference.

UN-Habitat: Changes from internal restructuring over the last few months took effect on 1 January 2020. The land unit shifted from Legislation and Co-governments to Housing and Slum Upgrading. Currently exploring for best synergies from this change. Oumar took over as the Regional Director for Africa and Robert has taken over management role related to land.

USAID: Currently developing a learning agenda which is looking at where USAID has been with land programmes focusing on evidences and research priorities going forward. Currently having discussions about a possible side session during the WB Conference on their Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative. With regards to their study on company land policies (circulated on 16 December 2019), the Swiss are looking at that to inform their call for proposals and then plan to do an additional work on that study.

## **2. Dragon's Den**

### **a. USAID presentation on women's land rights (Presentation PDF attached to minutes' email)**

The Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP) is a white house initiative created to advance global women's economic empowerment, particularly with regards to property rights and aims to reach out to 50 million women in developing world by 2025. The project focuses on three pillars: women prospering in the workforce, women succeeding as entrepreneurs, and women enabled in the economy. The land rights activities focus on pillar three. The W-GDP is currently active in 7 countries: Ethiopia, India, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia. The presentation highlighted ongoing and planned activities in the seven countries and concluded by posing questions to the GDWGL on how this project can be integrated with ongoing global efforts, and how best to share the lessons learnt.

### **Discussion**

MCC: Suggested that the initial findings be shared either during the results brown bag session scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> February, ahead of the opening of the WB Land & Poverty Conference, or during the Impact Evaluation Working Group session at the Conference. In response, USAID stated that they are happy to share initial findings from Tanzania at the WB Conference.

GLTN: Reconfirmed their interest in collaborating and being part of the technical team around various tools and awareness, especially in the focus countries where they have done/have active projects. Additionally, GLTN stated that the W-GDP provides a good opportunity for accessing data that can be used in evaluation and in support of the women's land rights agenda in those countries.

BMZ: Would like to know how the Landesa/WB Stand4Her campaign factors into the efforts of the W-GDP. USAID indicated that they have had preliminary discussions with Landesa and the Bank on possible areas of coordination as part of communicating this larger women's land rights within the land sector.

#### **b. GLTN directions update**

Oumar has moved to the UN-Habitat African Regional Office as Director effective 01 February. Robert Lettington is taking over, also as GLTN focal point for the GDWGL. The steering committee meeting in Oslo (70+ registered multi-stakeholder participants engaging on myriad issues in the land sector) will focus on the direction GLTN is to take and the 2020 work plan. Strategy engagement has remained the same and they have been busy implementing their tools at the country level. They will continue to address how to better scale up good practices and lessons learned from the experience at a level which grassroots organizations can benefit. GLTN is also looking into emerging issues in the land sector including climate change, land and conflict, and gender. GLTN also highlighted the possibility of collaboration between the Gender Strategy and USAID's Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative. Oumar's new position will allow him to advocate for more engagement of member states in land governance reform, promoting GLTN tools, and increased collaboration at the country level in Africa.

### **3. GLGR follow-ups**

#### **a. Discussion Note on Scale up of Global Land Agenda Background and Update - DFID**

DFID stressed that the circulated discussion note is a set of ideas drawn up to stimulate thinking and not a proposal to the GDWGL. The purpose of the discussion note is to set out ideas, drawing on nutrition and other sectors, on what global land stakeholders might need to do to organise themselves to drive a significant global change agenda on land.

The note's seven key elements were highlighted: clear evidence-based, framework of action, coalition of actors, mobilization of champions, making use of existing international events to try and get land on the agenda, working towards a summit and the global land report to track progress. DFID suggested that GWDGL identify two or three elements to begin with and try to create momentum around them.

Members were requested to read the discussion note and confirm their interest in working further on it. Thereafter, a lunch meeting with interested members would be organized during the WB Conference (17 March, 12:00 – 14:00 in room MC 2-850 with 25 participants) to substantively discuss the overall scale up of the global land agenda, based on DFID's discussion note.

#### **b. GLGR concept note update (Javier, FAO)**

Ongoing discussions with ILC and GLTN with a view to narrow down the focus of the proposal. Their idea is to start with a limited focus on a few countries and to work with existing data and resources available. This report may be a first building block of what would be developed into the Global Report. FAO, ILC, and GLTN will discuss this further.

### **4. Side event topic/format for WB Land & Poverty Conference**

The Chair indicated that there will be one broader GDWGL session on Monday, 16 March, to discuss the global land governance report to get public feedback on what they think could be useful and how the report should look like (estimated 40-60 participants). Members are requested to share their concrete ideas on how the event should look like, including potential stakeholders to be invited. Additionally, there is a common consensus that GDWGL needs to get feedback from broader group of stakeholders on how the first draft should look like.

The 15<sup>th</sup> GDWGL physical meeting will take place on Friday, 20 March from 9:00-15:00.

#### **5. Strategic Partners Participation**

GDWGL members are requested to provide any inputs on the proposals and questions found within by 10 February. Approval of the document would be on a non-objection basis.

#### **6. CSOs Engagement Criteria**

GDWGL members are requested to provide any inputs on the proposals and questions found within by 10 February. Approval of the document would be on a non-objection basis.

#### **7. Global Donor Working Group on Land: *Member 'Code of Conduct' on Country-Level Coordination – reminder***

GDWGL members were reminded to share this document with their country-level partners.

#### **8. AOB**

##### **a. Land Map**

The Global Donor Platform's Board will be meeting in Rome from 6-7 February and they are expected to make a series of decisions on the future structure of both the Platform and the Secretariat, one of those decisions being the future of Platform's website, which hosts the Land Map. Initial talks indicate that IFAD would want to maintain the website as is. If not, the Land Map would have to move to another server/website. Indications from the Secretariat's website consultant indicated that moving and maintaining the land map would cost between € 0-15 per month (depending on technical specifications of the new server). In case the Land Map must move, FAO has expressed interest in hosting the Land Map.

##### **b. GDWGL involvement in fora such as the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Secretariat requested to make a screening of upcoming fora where GDWGL members can informally join forces for a joint intervention, to be ready by the next physical meeting in DC.

##### **c. Secretariat changes**

Manuel is to start a new position effective 17 February. The Secretariat is seeking to hire an experienced consultant to support GDWGL until the end of June. Romy has been fronted as a possible candidate, and she is currently being contacted to check on her availability. Members are, however requested, to reach out to Manuel in case they have questions or any other suitable candidate. Members will be informed as soon as a decision is reached.