



# Minutes GDWGL Meeting

## Participants

### Group Members

- **Hélène Julien**, *AFD*
- **Maria Wichmann**, *BMZ*
- **Ward Anseeuw**, *FAO*
- **Chris Penrose Buckley**, *FCDO*
- **Dominik Wellmann**, *GIZ*
- **Romy Sato**, *Land Portal*
- **Chantal Wieckardt**, *the Netherlands*
- **Gemma Betsema**, *the Netherlands*
- **Therese Arnesen**, *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*
- **Leo Winnubst**, *GIZ*
- **Thea Hilhorst**, *World Bank*
- **Jenny Lisher**, *World Bank*
- **Mika Torhonen**, *World Bank*
- **Mercedes Stickler**, *World Bank*
- **Victoria Stanley**, *World Bank*
- **Robert Lewis-Lettington**, *UN-Habitat*
- **Karol Boudreaux**, *USAID*

### GDPRD Secretariat

- **Monique Amar**

## Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Gemma Betsema (Netherlands)
2.	TOP1: 2024 World Bank Land Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update on the upcoming World Bank Land Conference</li><li>• Q&amp;A and discussion</li></ul>	Jennifer Lisher (World Bank)
3.	TOP2: Land Portal Project Database <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation of the demo version of the global database of Land and Property Rights Projects Database</li><li>• Q&amp;A and discussion</li></ul>	Romy Sato (Land Portal)
4.	TOP3: Member Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members to share various updates from their work and organizations: new developments, new programmes, new country activities, opportunities for synergies.</li></ul>	All
5.	TOP4: Miscellaneous/Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-Chairmanship position</li></ul>	All
6.	Wrap-up & Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow up tasks and summary of agreements</li></ul>	Gemma Betsema (Netherlands)

# Key Highlights/Issues

## 1. Welcome & Introduction

- Therese Arnesen, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNCHR), joined the TWG meeting for the first time. She specifically works on housing, land, and property rights.

## 2. TOP1: 2024 World Bank Land Conference

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*For members to be updated on preparations and plans for the upcoming World Bank Land Conference, which will be held from **13-17 May 2024** in Washington, DC, at the World Bank Headquarters.*

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The [World Bank Land Conference](#) will return in 2024 after a five year hiatus, and will be themed around securing land tenure and access for climate action. The conference structure has been revised from previous editions to ensure inclusivity, with special attention to youth and women.
- The conference will include: opening and closing plenaries, parallel thematic sessions on four subthemes (below), research sessions (papers to be submitted in advance), regional operational workshops, global land initiative sessions, and a solutions expo.
  - The conference will feature four subthemes: (1) securing tenure for sustainability, (2) land technologies for green growth, (3) land administration for climate action and disaster resilience, and (4) land administration amid rapid urbanization.
  - There is multi-stakeholder advisory group composed of both World Bank experts and external partners (e.g., institutions, private foundations, civil society representatives) will review all the session proposals.
- The conference will be hybrid, but there is limited space for in-person participation so GDWGL members are encouraged to register early (registration opens in January).
  - GDWGL members who have not been contacted about the event proposals should reach out to Jenny Lisher; proposals are due on 1 December.
  - Registration will be \$50 for virtual participation and \$250-500 for in-person. There are many options for conference sponsorship, with perks for each level.
- GDWGL members are encouraged to contact Jenny Lisher ([jlisher@worldbank.org](mailto:jlisher@worldbank.org)) for any other questions or more information. **[Jenny Lisher]**
- The conference organizers strongly encourage participation from other stakeholders and sectors who are not strictly associated with land. **[Mercedes Stickler]**
- It would be helpful if GDWGL members coordinate in advance of the conference, particularly for the global land initiatives part, to ensure coherence and flow. **[Chris Penrose-Buckley]**
- The World Bank is trying to build momentum around land as part of climate discussions, and will therefore hold a land-focused panel at 10:00am on 9 December at COP28. Any land colleagues who will be there are encouraged to reach out and join. **[Jenny Lisher, Mika Torhonen]**

### Q&A

- Will the global land initiatives session feature the Global Land Agenda? **[Ward Anseeuw]**
  - Yes, various initiatives, including the GLA, are encouraged to submit multi-stakeholder proposals. **[Jenny Lisher]**

- Is there an objective to engage high-level national representatives, for a more political agenda? **[Ward Anseeuw]**
  - There is no political agenda per se, but country-level stakeholders are certainly welcome. The conference format will not be like UN meetings where country governments must agree on something. **[Jenny Lisher, Mika Torhonen]**
- There is a strong land network in West Africa, and we have sent our partners there the call for proposals. However, they are all Francophone, is this a constraint? **[Hélène Julien]**
  - No, there will be French and Spanish translation throughout the week. If additional languages are needed, there may be added costs. **[Jenny Lisher, Mercedes Stickler]**
- What type of government speakers should be engaged for participation? **[Maria Wichmann]**
  - Government officials from all sectors (e.g., those involved in environment and forestry, urban spaces, Indigenous peoples) are encouraged to join, as one of the main goals is multi-stakeholder collaboration. **[Jenny Lisher]**
- Is there space to expand the advisory group to include more civil society participation? Is it possible to include data, along with gender and youth, as cross-cutting topics? **[Romy Sato]**
  - There will be civil society representation in all forums; the steering committee is just one opportunity for participation. In terms of data, proposals for more evidence-focused content are welcome. **[Mika Torhonen, Victoria Stanley]**

### 3. TOP2: Land Portal Project Database

#### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*Presentation of the demo version of the global database of Land and Property Rights Projects Database, for GDWGL member information and user testing.*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- This database is a follow-up to the original Land Governance Programme Map, which was launched in 2014. It is now revamped to include automatic data updating and better data accuracy and functionality. It has not yet been released to the public, but is available for TWG members at <https://landportal.org/community/projects> to test and give feedback.
- Users can click through the map to access all land-related projects and programmes areas, but can also search by theme (e.g., conflict). Data on each programme includes: implementor, budget, project duration, status, and description.
  - The final data set includes 2587 projects, taken from the Land Map, the former LP Projects Database, and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), then curated further for land-related specification, duplicates, and age (projects from before 2013 have been removed).
- While there are still some limitations, the new database is a milestone for improved transparency and accountability for land-related multi-stakeholder coordination. It is now time to consider how the database can feed into global efforts to elevate the land agenda. **[Romy Sato]**
- Perhaps the database could eventually turn into something similar to the OECD DAC reporting and data, but for land specifically. This could be helpful in assessing how overall spending on land-related projects is changing. **[Chris Penrose-Buckley]**
  - This could indeed be interesting and useful in the future, but there is no capacity to build this at the moment, particularly for accurate funding aggregation. **[Romy Sato]**
- For the US, it would be quite difficult to compile this data, particularly in terms of global versus country level commitments, and where programs are being leveraged to assist the

private sector. **[Karol Boudreaux]**

- The Land Portal team can work directly with USAID and others who want to provide data directly for the database. **[Romy Sato]**

#### **Q&A:**

- Is the plan to harvest data on a regular basis? How do we update the database with projects that are ongoing? **[Chris Penrose-Buckley]**
  - Indeed, there are still issues about the completeness of the data. We are actively reaching out to partners and implementors when we have questions about their reported information, to ensure accuracy. The next step is to develop a comprehensive document detailing the methodologies and caveats of the database. We are also working on a plan to streamline maintenance and updates of the data. **[Romy Sato]**

## **4. Member Updates**

### **PURPOSE OF SECTION:**

*For members to share various updates from their work and organisations: new developments, new programmes, new country activities, opportunities for synergies.*

### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- The Land and Development MOOC [course](#) has been launched, and will take place from November 2023 to January 2024. The course is in French. **[Hélène Julien]**
- UN-Habitat has multiple new land-related projects and updates:
  - A new round of the Central African Forestry Initiative project in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been approved, and will be focused on the new land laws and land policies.
  - An expanded partnership with the Netherlands will result in increased activities in Uganda, and calls of interest have just been issued for implementation of work there.
  - BMZ will support the continuation of the Arab Land Initiative.
  - Tunisia will host the Arab Land Conference in 2024.
  - The Arab Land Initiative Reference Group will soon be reinstated.
  - Phase four of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) programme will run from January 2024 until December 2027 in a variety of countries. **[Robert Lewis-Lettington]**
- USAID will issue an updated biodiversity policy for public comment in the coming weeks, which includes land rights as a mechanism to promote biodiversity conservation. USAID also released a new global mechanism that is focused on urban land issues. **[Karol Boudreaux]**
- Germany (both BMZ and GIZ) have multiple land-related updates:
  - Germany has increased support for land activities, in particular the Rights and Resources Initiative, and is continuing collaboration with the ILC.
  - As GIZ's Global Programme Responsible Land Policy ends its overall term soon, the approach will be revised with a new, more multilateral perspective and a focus on marginalized groups as agenda of transformation (e.g., women, Indigenous Peoples).
  - GIZ has requested a consultant to summarize the evidence presented by all three research streams of the Rio Conventions on the importance of land tenure security for achieving the objectives of the conventions. Once finalized, the summary can be

shared with this group. *[Maria Wichmann]*

- A midterm review for the LAND-at-scale programme was positive, and came with recommendations that are being addressed. Options for a second phase of the programme are being explored. *[Chantal Wieckardt]*
- The land work in FCDO has recently been moved to a new Global Food Security, Agriculture, and Land Department. This will not drastically change the work, as focus continues to remain on three areas: (1) national land reform, (2) forest tenure and IP LC tenure rights, and (3) responsible land-based investment. *[Chris Penrose-Buckley]*
- FAO is focusing on promoting collaboration and coordination in the land community. Communications regarding this further collaboration will start in 2024. *[Ward Anseeuw]*
- OHCHR is strategizing how to best fit into the land community and where its added value lies. Currently, OHCHR provides guidance, technical advice, and capacity building on land related issues (i.e., to member states, civil society, human rights institutions).
  - OHCHR has created 2 products related to land: (1) a fact sheet on the intersection of land and human rights, and (2) a handbook on the application of the Pinheiro Principles in the MENA region *[Therese Arnesen]*
- A high-level panel with country representation will take place at the [CLPA conference](#) in Addis Ababa in November. Members attending are encouraged to join. *[Gemma Betsema]*

## 5. Miscellaneous/Other Business

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*For members to discuss other pressing issues.*

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Members are strongly encouraged to consider Co-Chairing the TWG, and are invited to contact Gemma, Chantal or the Secretariat for further information. *[Gemma Betsema]*
- The Global Land Agenda needs to remain active in order to push land to the forefront of global discussions. There is clear interest from governments and other stakeholders to exchange and bring land higher on the political agenda. The GLA could be such a mechanism that brings various voices together with simple messages on the importance of land. *[Ward Anseeuw]*

## Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Coordinate member proposals for submission to the World Bank Land Conference.	ASAP	Gemma Betsema and Chantal Wieckardt (Netherlands), Secretariat (GDPRD)
2.	Test new land project database ( <a href="#">here</a> ) and send feedback to Romy Sato.	N/A	All
3.	Contact Gemma Betsema if you are planning to attend the CLPA conference in November.	ASAP	All
4.	Consider Co-Chairing the TWG.	ASAP	All

