



16 April 2025

Minutes GDWGL Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Ward Anseeuw**, *FAO (Chair)*
- **Jenny Lopez**, *FCDO*
- **Louise Metay**, *France*
- **Annette Jaitner**, *GLZ*
- **Rikke Grand**, *IFAD*
- **Gemma Betsema**, *the Netherlands*
- **Chantal Wieckardt**, *the Netherlands*
- **Ombretta Tempa**, *UN-Habitat*
- **Robert Lewis-Lettington**, *UN-Habitat*
- **Therese Arnesen**, *Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)*
- **Thea Hilhorst**, *World Bank*

GDPRD Secretariat

- **Michelle Tang**
- **Monique Amar**
- **Sierra Berardelli**
- **Alessandro Cordova**

Agenda

| ISSUE | ITEM | DETAILS |
|-------|---|----------|
| 1. | Welcome & Introduction | Ward/FAO |
| 2. | GDWGL Workplan -Review of 2022-2024 workplan -Discussion on priorities for the 2025-2027 workplan | All |
| 3. | Member Updates | All |
| 4. | AOB and Closing | Ward/FAO |

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome & Introduction

- Louise Metay (France) joined the GDWGL meeting for the first time.
- Wencke Müller-Rilke will be BMZ's new Senior Policy Advisor on Land Rights. **[GIZ]**

2. GDWGL Workplan

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To review the priorities and related accomplishments of the GDWGL 2022-2024 Workplan, and brainstorm ideas and priorities for creating a new 2025-2027 Workplan.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The [2022-2024 GDWGL Workplan](#) focused on strategic functions and thematic priorities of concern to the whole group (Track 1) and on topics or emerging themes of interest to some, but not all members, and with no clear collective role for the group (Track 2). Most GDWGL work occurred in Track 1, in which the main foci were **Member Exchanges**, **Global Advocacy**, and **Country-level Coordination**. A review (*Annex I*) was presented on what was achieved from the Workplan on these three themes, and how the group might continue engagement in the next Workplan. **[FAO, GDPRD Secretariat]**
- Are the three areas (Member Exchanges, Global Advocacy, and Country-level Coordination) still relevant for the next Workplan? **[FAO]**
 - Yes, the three are good basic approaches, and the GDWGL can take on additional areas when relevant. **[UN-Habitat]**

Member Exchanges

- The GDWGL will continue with regular meetings each quarter, with member updates as well as deep dives from partners on various topics. **[FAO]**

Country-Level Coordination

- Country coordination is still critically important and should be kept as a priority, even if it is difficult to accomplish in practice. **[FCDO, the Netherlands]**
- The Land Portal may be able to provide an analysis on the main trends appearing in their [Land Projects Database](#), which could help identify possible countries for GDWGL coordination and collaboration. **[the Netherlands]**
- GIZ will present the 'Strategic Partnership for Inclusive Land Reforms' at the next GDWGL call, which is also in line with country-level coordination. **[FAO, GIZ]**

Global Advocacy

- Preparations are underway for the Conference on Land Policy in Africa, which will include discussions on reparations and repatriation, and cultural ownership of land policy and reforms. In preparation for the conference, a series of consultations will occur in May/June. **[UN-Habitat]**
- ICARRD+20
 - There is strong interest from Germany, although commitments are not set yet. **[GIZ]**
 - FAO is strongly involved, given that the Colombian government requested that FAO lead on technical support. **[FAO]**
 - IFAD will participate as well, specifically through its Colombian country office. **[IFAD]**

- UN-Habitat is participating with housing, land, and tenure security-related events at: the High-Level Political Forum at ECOSOC in July, the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development in June/July, and the 2nd World Summit for Social Development in November.

Track 2 (ad-hoc thematic foci)

- Perhaps it would be useful to focus more attention on only two or three themes, so that coordination can be scaled up, rather than trying to touch on many different ones. Do members have ideas for relevant thematic areas? **[FAO]**
 - Land in relation to migration and IDPs is relevant for global policy priorities **[the Netherlands]**
 - Competition and conflict over land, including for minerals **[UN-Habitat]**
 - Nexuses, especially around extractive resources and land, and around migration and land **[France]**
 - Land and the Rio Conventions **[FAO]**
 - Access to land/land rights and direct access to finance for women and IPLCs **[GIZ]**
- The Donor Platform facilitates a thematic working group on rural youth employment (TWG RYE). The TWG RYE Co-Chairs are discussing their upcoming work, and are interested in collaborating more with the GDWGL. This could be through presentations at each other's meetings, or perhaps on a joint webinar on land rights/access for youth. **[GDPRD Secretariat]**

ACTION POINTS:

- Based on the points from this discussion, the Chair and Secretariat will create a zero-draft of a new 2025-2027 GDWGL Workplan. The draft will be circulated so that it can be further discussed during the next GDWGL call, with finalization foreseen in the coming months.
- GDWGL members are welcome to share further ideas for the Workplan via [email](#).

3. Member Updates

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For Members to give short updates on their current work.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- GIZ's Global Programme on Responsible Land Policy is ending, with a final event being planned for October. The new programme is currently being designed, and will likely begin in 2026. **[GIZ]**
- The FCDO Land Facility Program is currently in implementation phase in four core countries (Ethiopia, Brazil, Zambia, and Indonesia). Currently, projects are being designed based on extensive interviews with governments, organizations, and stakeholders; it is a highly collaborative and iterative process and all inputs are welcome. The focus is on national-level governance reform, and providing technical capacity to national governments. **[FCDO]**
- Discussions are progressing on a second pledge of the IPLC Forest Tenure Pledge, to hopefully be launched at COP30. Discussions are also progressing on two complimentary, parallel commitments: the Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership, and the Tropical Forest Country Government Pledge. **[FCDO]**
- Trade, stability, and migration are central to the new government's policy priorities, and land governance has specifically been mentioned as an enabler for food security. **[the Netherlands]**
- Migration and food security are strong priorities, and are both closely linked to land governance. This is particularly relevant for West Africa and the Sahel region. **[France]**

- The UN-Habitat Assembly will meet in May. UN-Habitat's Executive Director (Anacláudia Rossbach), has a strong background in land, housing, and tenure security, and these topics are expected to feature in the new Strategic Plan for 2026-2029. **[UN-Habitat]**
- A call for inputs was issued on land and housing, and all are encouraged to contribute. A similar call on land and food security will come out later this year. **[UN-Habitat]**
- The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) will shortly publish the 2024 annual report. **[UN-Habitat]**
- A factsheet on Land and Human Rights will be published soon. Perhaps the GDWGL could convene some broad discussions on this topic. **[UN-Habitat, OHCHR]**
- Land and human rights is extremely dominant in work in Latin America, such as for IPLCs, conflict over land, agrarian reform, lack of land allocation for minorities, land defenders, etc. OHCHR is always prepared to assist its partners; since it is working in so many countries, GDWGL members are welcome to contact OHCHR for assistance in specific countries. **[OHCHR]**
- The presentations and documentation from the Arab Land Conference are available on the Land Portal website. Some country-level work is being undertaken in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Tunisia. In Syria, programming is evolving to support and facilitate work in the current context. **[UN-Habitat]**
- The LAND-at-scale is running until the end of 2026, and is active in 11 countries, with Egypt and Iraq having been recently added. More outputs, reports, and evaluations will be released. LAND-at-scale will be present at the Global Land Forum in Colombia in June. **[the Netherlands]**
- The first full draft of the GLO report will be ready shortly, to be presented to the technical reference group. **[FAO]**
- There is huge interest on land and the Rio conventions; however, there has been a strong request for efforts on alignment between the various land indicators and the SDGs, to ensure the interconnectedness of all indicators. **[FAO]**
- There has been a major relaunch of the [Land Tenure Journal](#), and the first issue (a special issue on land consolidation) will be released in May. **[FAO]**
- There is interest in revamping the VGGT steering committee; if GDWGL members are interested, this could be organized. **[FAO]**

4. AOB & Closing

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For members to discuss other pressing issues.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- MCC had agreed to take on a Co-Chairmanship role of the GDWGL, but given the situation and status of MCC and its employees, this is no longer possible. The role of Co-Chair is therefore still open, and all GDWGL members who are interested are encouraged to contact Ward or the Secretariat. **[FAO]**
- A hybrid meeting of the GDWGL will be organized during the World Bank Land Conference in Washington, DC. Date, time, and location are tbc. Among other agenda items, GIZ will present the 'Strategic Partnership for Inclusive Land Reforms' at this meeting. **[FAO, GDPRD Secretariat]**

Summary of action points

| ITEM | ACTION | TIMELINE | RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S) |
|------|---|----------|------------------------|
| 1. | Consider taking on the role of GDWGL Co-Chair | ASAP | All |
| 2. | Brainstorm ideas for the new Workplan, and share thoughts via email. | ASAP | All |
| 3. | Plan hybrid meeting of the GDWGL at the WB Land Conference in Washington. | ASAP | FAO, GDPRD Secretariat |