



15 September 2025

Minutes GDWGL Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Wencke Müller-Rilke**, *BMZ - Germany*
- **Ward Anseeuw**, *FAO (Chair)*
- **Jenny Lopez**, *FCDO*
- **Oscar Faulconnier**, *France*
- **Annette Jaitner**, *GIZ - Germany*
- **Anja Schwiertz**, *GIZ - Germany*
- **Tom Rost**, *GIZ - Germany*
- **Gemma Betsema**, *The Netherlands*
- **Chantal Wieckardt**, *The Netherlands*

- **Christina Blank**, *Switzerland*
- **Mika-Petteri Törhönen**, *World Bank*
- **Victoria Stanley**, *World Bank*

GDPRD Secretariat

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

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Ward/FAO
2.	Engagement in ICARRD+20	All
3.	Engagement in COP30 and Rio Conventions	All
4.	Invitations to non-donors	All
5.	Member updates	All
6.	AOB and Closing	Ward/FAO

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome & Introduction

- Oscar Faulconnier **[France]** and Tom Rost **[GIZ]** joined for the first time.

2. Engagement in ICARRD+20

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To discuss GDWGL members' participation in the upcoming ICARRD+20 event.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The first ICARRD (International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development) was held in 2006, and was a FAO conference that was hosted by Brazil. A second ICARRD will take stock of the last 20 years, and will be held in **Cartagena, Colombia on 24 – 27 February, 2026**. Colombia will be leading and hosting ICARRD+20, with technical support provided by FAO. All FAO member states, as well as various NGOs and civil society organizations have already received official invitations. FAO has provided a preliminary agenda and is awaiting feedback from Colombia. FAO has also produced a draft declaration, which will be eventually distributed for comments and consultations. Colombia will likely provide an update with more details during the World Food Forum (WFF) or Committee on World Food Security (CFS) plenaries in October. **[FAO]**
- Germany is currently preparing for engagements for ICARRD+20, and is deciding on levels of political engagement, etc. What levels of engagement (e.g., ministerial) are expected? **[BMZ]**
 - Since FAO is only providing technical support and is not co-organizing, the invitees and acceptances are only known by Colombia. However, it is expected that there will be many ministers from the region (Latin America) in attendance, but not as many from other regions. **[FAO]**
 - An invitation was received, but participation is not yet confirmed. **[The Netherlands]**
- To secure more details and information, the GDWGL can invite the Colombian ambassador or Colombian representative to the RBAs to the next GDWGL call, date tbc. **[FAO]**

ACTION POINTS:

- The Secretariat and the Chair will reach out to Colombian representatives in Rome to see if they would participate in the next GDWGL call.

3. Engagement in COP30 and Rio Conventions

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To discuss GDWGL members' participation in COP30 in Belem, and other Rio Conventions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- While formulating the GDWGL workplan, members agreed that more coordination and collaboration around the Rio Conventions would be beneficial. It is an opportune time to discuss such engagements, especially with COP30 in November. **[FAO]**
- The UK will be present at COP30, but it is still unclear who will participate and at which events. The UK is coordinating with the Forest Climate Leaders Partnership and the Forest Tenure Funders Group to align announcements on the new intergovernmental land tenure pledge, the renewed Forest Tenure Funders Pledge, and the Tropical Forest Finance Facility.

Through its Land Facility programme, bilateral support will be provided to tropical forest governments (starting with Brazil) to ensure pledges are sustainable and backed by the needed support. The UK is also helping organize closed-door roundtables on land tenure during COP30. In the lead-up, there will be a joint Forest Climate Leaders Partnership and Forest Tenure Funders Group event in New York, where announcements and discussions on the Forest Tenure Pledge will take place. **[FCDO]**

- Germany will be participating, especially as Co-Chair of the Forest Tenure Funders group, but details are not confirmed. **[GIZ]**
- The Netherlands is also involved in the Forest Tenure Pledge, but it is not yet confirmed which colleagues will attend COP30. **[The Netherlands]**
- FAO is not directly engaged in COP negotiations, but actively working on integrating land tenure into UNFCCC monitoring frameworks. Progress has been made: land tenure is now included as a component/disaggregation indicator under adaptation targets (not as a headline indicator, unfortunately). This mirrors progress previously achieved in the CBD. The next step is presenting proposals at the UNFCCC SBSTA in Panama (20 October) before COP. While the technical outcome will largely be decided there, keeping land tenure visible in the broader COP narrative remains important. **[FAO]**
- Should the GDWGL work toward more collective and coordinated efforts to push land tenure higher on the global agenda? **[FAO]**
 - There is a need for stronger narrative and communications alignment around the various land and forest pledges. Since the commitments address different angles, it can be confusing to explain how they fit together. Coordinated framing across organizations could improve public visibility and impact. This could be revisited after the upcoming New York event, when more clarity may emerge. **[FCDO]**
- An overview of land indicators on all 3 COPs will be shared with the group. **[FAO]**

4. Invitations to non-donors

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For GDWGL members to discuss opening the group to non-donor members.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The Chair has received requests from multiple non-donor groups and/or organizations to join the GDWGL meetings on a permanent (non-guest) basis.
- Are GDWGL members interested in opening membership to non-donor participation, or keeping the group as a donor-only space? **[FAO]**
 - These discussions have been ongoing for many years in the GDWGL. However, a donors-only space has advantages, such as being able to discuss programming still under development, and working on strategic alignment. **[The Netherlands]**
 - There are other land forums that include wider partners, whereas the GDWGL is one of the only donor-only spaces, and should be kept as such. However, perhaps there could be a regular forum for guest participation; for example, once per year, or during the World Bank Land Conference. **[FCDO]**
 - A donor-only space for regular meetings is advantageous, but with some open forums and events for broader participation from other partners. **[World Bank]**
 - Agreed with upholding the donor-only space, but with broader participation in certain meetings or events. **[GIZ]**
- The Chair and Secretariat can meet with these non-donor organizations to understand how the GDWGL can support them without becoming regular members. **[FAO]**

5. Member Updates

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For members to share updates on their ongoing and new land-related projects and programmes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The appraisal mission for the new global land governance project has completed its interviews and country missions in Madagascar, Zambia, and Nigeria. Data is now being compiled into a project proposal, with news expected by the end of the year. Budget negotiations remain uncertain, and will only be clarified in spring 2026. Despite challenges, efforts continue to keep land governance high on the agenda. **[GIZ]**
- Colleagues in Laos continue work on the Mekong Regional Land Governance project. **[Switzerland]**
- Germany has been involved with a new impact study on multi-stakeholder platforms for land governance. A short workshop on the study is planned, and findings will be shared once available. The research includes cases from the Mekong region and some comparative analysis from other contexts. **[GIZ]**
- The Global Land Observatory (GLO) report will be finished shortly. There were extensive consultations with all divisions in FAO, which is positive that there was so much engagement on a land report. The report will be launched on Tuesday October 21, as both an official CFS side event and a standalone event. The event will include high-level speakers, and is co-organized with the Land Portal to ensure broader visibility and outreach. **[FAO]**
- A feasibility study is being launched for a global land tenure map, aimed at providing geo-referenced data on tenure systems worldwide to support Rio Convention indicators. Advances in technology, data systems, and political demand now make this more feasible than when a similar effort was attempted 10–15 years ago. A first stakeholder meeting will be held, where many GDWGL partners will hopefully be engaged. **[FAO]**
- A Steering Committee is being established to address progress on the VGGTS, as well as the broader work of the FAO land team. The next meeting will be held at the end of 2025 or early 2026, and participation from GDWGL members is encouraged. **[FAO]**

6. AOB & Closing

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For members to discuss other pressing issues.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The role of Co-Chair is still open, and all GDWGL members who are interested are encouraged to contact Ward or the Secretariat. **[GDPRD Secretariat]**

Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Consider taking on the role of GDWGL Co-Chair.	Ongoing	All
2.	Contact Colombian representatives to speak	ASAP	Chair

Minutes TWG GDWGL Meeting – 8 May 2025

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
	on ICARRD+20 in next GDWGL meeting.		
3.	Share overview of land indicators at COPs.	ASAP	Chair