



5 February 2026

Minutes GDWGL Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Ward Anseeuw**, *FAO (Chair)*
- **Jenny Lopez**, *FCDO*
- **Annette Jaitner**, *Germany (GIZ)*
- **Rikke Olivera**, *IFAD*
- **Gemma Betsema**, *The Netherlands*
- **Chantal Wieckardt**, *The Netherlands*
- **Christina Blank**, *Switzerland*
- **Ombretta Tempra**, *UN-Habitat*
- **Therese Arnesen**, *UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)*
- **Thea Hilhorst**, *World Bank*
- **Mika-Petteri Törhönen**, *World Bank*

GDPRD Secretariat

- **Maurizio Navarra**
- **Monique Amar**
- **Michelle Tang**
- **Sierra Berardelli**

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	PRESENTER
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Ward/FAO
2.	Donor Platform Updates	Maurizio/GDPRD
3.	LAND-at-scale Programme	Gemma and Chantal/The Netherlands
4.	Upcoming Events	All
5.	Invitations for Presentations	Ward/FAO
6.	Member Updates	All
7.	AOB and Closing	Ward/FAO

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome & Introduction

2. Donor Platform updates

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For the GDPRD Secretariat Coordinator to provide an update on recent and upcoming work.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The [2025 Annual General Assembly](#) (AGA) took place in Brussels on 12 December, hosted by the European Commission. The AGA focused on investing in the future of agri-food systems and the evolving development finance landscape, including trends in ODA, catalytic capital, and aligning financing efforts. The Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) and the Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment jointly hosted a session on “[The Future of Youth in Agrifood Systems: Tackling the double challenge of access to land and finance](#)”.
- A pre-AGA Board session was also held, during which four priority areas for 2026 emerged: (1) Return on investment (ROI) in agrifood systems (value for money; transaction costs; “doing more with less”); (2) Innovative and blended finance (standardization and cross-donor collaboration); (3) Policy linkages between agrifood systems and other sectors/multilateral agendas; (4) Data and artificial intelligence for improved donor decision-making. These priority areas will be submitted to the Board for endorsement at the first Board meeting of 2026.
- The Platform’s incoming co-Chairs for the 2026-2028 term are Leonard Mizzi (European Commission) and Thijs Woudstra (Netherlands). **[GDPRD Secretariat]**
- How do the four proposed priority areas for the Donor Platform relate to the work of the thematic working groups, including the GDWGL? **[FAO]**
 - Several of the TWGs, including GDWGL, already address some of these themes. For example, innovative finance has been an important topic in recent AGAs and in collaborative sessions with GDWGL in 2024 and 2025. That being said, TWGs are self-standing and are not managed directly by the Platform Secretariat. It is up to each TWG’s Chairs and members to determine their own workplan and areas of focus. While the Platform encourages TWGs to align their work with the broader Platform agenda if they wish, they are equally free to take up other relevant thematic or strategic opportunities that emerge. **[GDPRD Secretariat]**

3. LAND-at-scale

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For colleagues from the Netherlands to provide an update on the second phase of the programme.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- In the new Dutch development cooperation framework, land governance has been maintained within the food security agenda while also linking development investments more closely to national policy priorities (trade, stability, migration).
- Phase II of LAND-at-scale is now officially launched, totaling EUR 47.5 million and running from 2026 - 2033. Funding from the Rule of Law Department has significantly increased, signaling strong institutional commitment. Core components of Phase II design include:

Country-level programme support; Knowledge management; Stronger emphasis on coordination and collaboration, including country-level synergies (key for the GDWGL); and a revised, more structured pipeline development process.

- Approximately 30 Dutch embassies are eligible to submit ideas within a six-week window. Final country selections are expected in April 2026, followed by a formulation phase and eventually an open call for concept notes. A major learning event reflecting on seven years of LAND-at-scale is being planned for 21 – 25 September 2026. **[The Netherlands]**

4. Upcoming events

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For colleagues to discuss participation in and coordination around upcoming land-related events.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- **ICARRD+20 (International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development)** will be held in Cartagena, Colombia on 24 – 28 February 2026. It is hosted by the government of Colombia, led by the Ministry of Agriculture, with technical support provided by FAO. It will be in-presence only, with no online interactive participation, but the High-level plenary will be livestreamed. There will be simultaneous translation in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese.
 - Over 70 country delegations and 18 ministers are intending to participate, though logistical challenges persist, including delays in invitations, visas and confirmations.
 - Donor support for travel of country delegations remains essential; several donors (including GIZ, RVO and IFAD) have already mobilized funds.
 - A total of 54 position papers were received for the ICARRD+20 Declaration. FAO is synthesizing these inputs for submission to the Government of Colombia. **[FAO]**
- The **World Bank Land and Property Research Conference** will take place on 29 April – 1 May 2026, with a pre-conference on 28 April. More than 250 submissions were received, including strong participation from early-career researchers. The World Bank is actively trying to connect research outputs to operational programmes, particularly via AgriConnect.
 - The second annual Global Index on Land Institutions is underway and will complement the World Bank’s Business Ready index; GDWGL members are invited to circulate the questionnaire for the Land Institutions Index within their government networks to improve coverage. **[World Bank]**
- The **World Urban Forum** will take place on 17 – 22 May 2026 in Baku. There will be a strong land tenure component, including a GLTN Partners Gathering on 17 May. **[UN-Habitat]**
- The **LANDac Conference** will take place on 1 – 2 July 2026. The [call for abstracts](#) is still open until 27 February. **[The Netherlands]**
- There will be a meeting of the **UN Intergovernmental Working Group on Adequate Housing** in November 2026, and land tenure and security will remain a central theme. **[UN-Habitat]**

Invitations for Presentations

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To discuss how the GDWGL will engage with external organizations and requests to present during meetings.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The GDWGL frequently receives requests from external organizations to present; recent requests include the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the International Land Coalition (ILC). **[FAO]**
- External input can be valuable when they provide strategic insights relevant to donor coordination, particularly discussions on collaboration, partnerships, or emerging priorities. At the same time, a dynamic in which meetings become a platform for project pitching or fundraising should be avoided. **[OHCHR; the Netherlands]**
- Any external presentations should be selective, time-bound, and linked to specific thematic discussions, with limits on the number and duration of interventions. The primary focus should remain on donor exchange and coordination. **[FAO, GDPRD Secretariat, the Netherlands]**

ACTION POINTS:

- The Secretariat and Chair will develop a structured approach for inviting external organizations to present, including clear criteria on scope, format, and timing, and will propose options to the Working Group ahead of future meetings.

5. Member Updates

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The result of BMZ reform process is [here](#). BMZ/GIZ are launching a new global land programme mid-2026 with activities in Nigeria, Madagascar and Zambia. **[GIZ]**
- There's emerging interest in a potential Team Europe Initiative on Land Governance, which may be discussed at an upcoming HARDs meeting. Further information may be shared at a future meeting as discussions progress. **[GIZ, the Netherlands]**
- The State of Land Tenure and Governance Report received formal internal sign-off and is planned to launch on 26 February, during the ICARRD+20 plenary, with a high-level panel (including ministers from Brazil and Colombia) and participation from BMZ, ILC and FAO. **[FAO]**
- UN-Habitat has developed the new 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, with land designated as one of three organizational priorities. GLTN now has enhanced institutional standing. **[UN-Habitat]**
- The 64th session of the Human Rights Council will begin on 23 February. During the session, reports will be presented by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (including a report on land and food) and the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, whose final mandate report includes guidance on resettlement and land tenure. A related side event will be organized in early March to reflect on outcomes of ICARRD+20. **[OHCHR]**

6. AOB & Closing

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For members to discuss other pressing issues.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The co-Chair position for the GDWGL remains open. Members are encouraged to reach out to the Secretariat/Chair should they wish to take on, or explore, the role. *[FAO]*

Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Consider Co-Chairmanship of the GDWGL	ASAP	All