



8 July 2026

Minutes GDWGL Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Wencke Müller-Rilke**, *BMZ*
- **Ward Anseeuw**, *FAO (Chair)*
- **Jenny Lopez**, *FCDO*
- **Tanja Williams**, *GIZ*
- **Rikke Olivera**, *IFAD*
- **Karol Boudreaux**, *Landesa*
- **Gemma Betsema**, *The Netherlands*
- **Robin Bredeveld**, *The Netherlands*
- **Ombretta Tempa**, *UN-Habitat*

GDPRD Secretariat

- **Maurizio Navarra**
- **Sierra Berardelli**
- **Woojae Shin**
- **Dakyung Choi**

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	PRESENTER
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Ward/FAO
2.	Secretariat Updates	Maurizio Navarra/GDPRD
3.	Chatham House Discussion	Ward/FAO
4.	Engagement in UNCCD COP17, CBD COP17, and UNFCCC COP31	All
5.	Discussion on opportunities for improving coordination among members	Ward/FAO
6.	Partner News, AOB and Closing	Ward/FAO

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome & Introduction

- Robin Breedevelde (*The Netherlands*) joined the call for the first time.

2. Secretariat updates

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The Platform held its second **Board Meeting** of the year on 24 June, to review progress across the Platforms four [workstreams](#) and outline key priorities for the months ahead.
- The first meeting of the Platform's **Technical Advisory Group on Return on Investment (ROI)** took place on 9 June, with a strong consensus to produce a strategic, political framing paper that strengthens the investment narrative for agrifood systems in the context of shrinking ODA budgets. Members agreed that the paper should not only refer to the economic returns of agrifood systems investments, but also include dimensions including resilience, jobs, climate, and coordination. The Advisory Group will continue to meet periodically to review successive drafts, with the paper to be launched at this year's Annual General Assembly (AGA).
- The new workstream on **AI and Data for Decision-making** is being launched, with the first in a series of webinars scheduled for **16 July**. The 45-minute session, "[AI for Healthy Diets – Applying AI in Agrifood Systems](#)," will be held in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The workstream aims to showcase pragmatic, concrete examples of mainstreaming artificial intelligence to improve nutrition and development outcomes.
- The **2026 AGA** will take place on **2 December** in Dublin, Ireland. The overarching theme will focus on unpacking the strategic return on investment potential for agrifood systems. Enhancing its political impact and visibility, the event has been officially included in the calendar of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Thematic Working Groups will be invited to organize dedicated sessions, as in previous years. **[GDPRD Secretariat]**

Discussion and Q&A:

- The land community has undertaken considerable work on return on investment; are there opportunities for the GDWGL to contribute to the ROI paper? **[The Netherlands]**
 - The TWG can contribute inputs through their Board representatives and during the consultation process once a draft paper becomes available. Additionally, the TWG can contribute through a dedicated thematic session on this topic during this year's AGA. **[GDPRD Secretariat]**

3. Chatham House Discussion

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To share reflections on the current funding landscape for land governance and to discuss potential key opportunities ahead.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Multiple global land-related institutions are facing a dire financial situation due to severe budget cuts. The Land Portal is operating with a drastically reduced team, while the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Secretariat lost its global land funding at the end of last year, forcing significant operational downsizing. Major budget reductions have also affected organizations such as GIZ, the International Land Coalition (ILC), FAO, and the Global Land Programme. Members strongly agreed that the sector must collectively reflect on this structural erosion of public budgets and actively design strategies to adapt to the new funding reality.
- Despite public sector funding constraints, discussions highlighted that alternative funding sources remain available outside traditional land policy channels. The recent FIG Conference in Cape Town demonstrated a strong presence of new, non-traditional donors, including Saudi Arabia, with growing interest in funding land administration and digitalization.
- Members suggested expansion of the group's network to include philanthropic donors, which fund considerable amounts of investment in land. Philanthropic donors are showing growing interest in community tenure issues and leveraging government relations to deliver tenure in robust ways, notable during London Climate Action Week. Furthermore, members recognized that greater engagement with bilateral donors working on climate, migration, conflict and economic development could be considered, as land governance increasingly contributes to these broader agendas.
- The current funding crisis represents a major paradigm shift for official development assistance (ODA). As bilateral funding becomes increasingly strategic and country-focused, the land community needs to strengthen the investment narrative for land governance through more innovative approaches, proactive leadership and a concrete, collective agenda. Germany and the Netherlands have taken the initiative to explore the options for a Team Europe Initiative (TEI); an initial meeting with member states has taken place and follow-up discussions with EU-INTPA are ongoing. Land governance should be re-positioned as a high-priority investment case that contributes to broader development objectives and attracts interest from emerging funding models and new financing partners.
- To establish a unified, concrete agenda for the sector, an initial concept for a sector-wide land pledge entitled "Secure land rights for 1 billion people" was introduced for discussion. Building on earlier reflections within the GDWGL and the former Global Action for Land (GAL), the concept aims to strengthen the political and investment case for land governance by bridging political will with country-level implementation. Operating as a sector-wide umbrella rather than a competing mechanism, the initiative would promote a whole-of-system approach linking tenure security to food systems, climate resilience, biodiversity, and peace. An initial phase would involve mapping ongoing donor projects, followed by a second phase dedicated to coordinating government commitments and cross-ministerial engagement.
- As global institutional budgets decrease, members raised serious concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of the sector's digital infrastructure. Valuable knowledge products, datasets, and platforms developed collectively over the years risk being lost if hosting organizations collapse. The group suggested exploring practical coordination measures to sustainably store, archive, and maintain these repositories, ensuring that global thinking remains accessible for future country-level operations.

4. Engagement in UNCCD COP17, CBD COP17, and UNFCCC COP31

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To discuss members' engagement in three upcoming COPs and identify opportunities for collaboration.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Germany will participate as host country and strategic partner for the UNCCD COP17. Priorities include land rights, gender, civil society engagement, drought resilience, strengthening the economic evidence for sustainable land use management, and promoting synergies across the Rio Conventions. Germany will also lead preparations of the European Union's draft position on land tenure; members are invited to share relevant background information and inputs once the draft becomes available. **[BMZ, GIZ]**
- UN Habitat is planning engagement on addressing peri-urban expansion and urban sprawl, with a particular focus on protecting land degradation and biodiversity. **[UN Habitat]**
- FAO's Land Tenure Team will engage in UNCCD with two overarching priorities: to keep land tenure high on the agenda within the Convention, and to advance the inclusion of land tenure indicators in the UNCCD COP17 monitoring framework. Building on the recent adoption of the indicators under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), FAO is also supporting their implementation at country level, focusing on how to integrate local data into national reporting processes, drawing on examples from Kenya, Columbia, and the Philippines. **[FAO]**

Discussion and Q&A:

- Will the land tenure indicators be part of a draft UNCCD decision? **[GIZ]**
 - Discussions with the UNCCD Secretariat are ongoing. The Chair will continue discussions with the Secretariat and Land and People Day organizers and update members on any opportunities to feed into the draft decisions. **[FAO]**

5. Discussion on opportunities for improving coordination among members

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To discuss opportunities for strengthening coordination across upcoming initiatives.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Strengthening coordination across the land community is increasingly important. Rather than creating new coordination mechanisms, strengthening and building on existing initiatives is the priority. The Land Portal, originally developed by the GDWGL and hosted on the GDPRD website, is an important dataset that should be maintained and regularly updated, and can be linked to other initiatives.
- The African Union is also leading coordination efforts, in partnership with the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) and FAO following the Addis Ababa conference. Additionally, the International Land Coalition (ILC) has expressed strong interest in collaborating with the group to enhance multi-stakeholder communication.

ACTION POINTS:

- A dedicated coordination session will be included at the next meeting, bringing together three representatives to present existing coordination tools:
 - **Land Portal** to present its database, including case studies and how to align with various national coordination platforms and other land initiatives.
 - **ILC** to present their coordination tools and approaches across stakeholders.
 - **FAO** to present ongoing coordination efforts from the ALPC-FAO process and how to strengthen coordination across global, regional and country levels.

6. Partner News, AOB and Closing

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The LANDac Conference on Land and Conflict brought together a broader range of stakeholders, focusing on land-related conflicts and land governance in complex contexts. Through the LAND-at-scale programme, the Netherlands will continue its engagement in the land sector in 16 countries; RVO is currently scoping future programming in Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Bangladesh, Iraq, and the Palestine territories; scoping in the other countries will commence later in the year **[the Netherlands]**
- To support evidence-based decision-making and accountability, the team has started a new project, the **Global Land Tenure Map (GLTM)** (working title), which will provide geospatial data through a unified platform. The initiative will also serve as the monitoring platform for the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) commitments, providing necessary data to track progress. In addition, FAO is establishing a new global Indigenous Peoples mechanism to facilitate direct access to finance for Indigenous Peoples, with the first agreement expected to be signed in the Congo Basin. **[FAO]**
- The **World Urban Forum** was held successfully with more than 57,000 participants, featuring the launch of a regional land report for the Middle East. In the humanitarian sphere, the land community has been integrated into the new global cluster: "Shelter, land and site coordinations" at the country level. UN-Habitat data also show a concerning increase in land consumption per capita, emphasizing the need to re-evaluate urban land use to better protect agricultural land. **[UN-Habitat]**
- IFAD continues to mainstream land governance issues across its portfolio, with a particular focus on improving access to land for youth, women, and small-scale producers. The Fund has also established a new roadmap with the ILC to integrate local expertise into project implementation, aiming to facilitate more secure access to land. **[IFAD]**
- There has been significant pivot of UK Land Facility towards conflict and climate resilience, with ongoing projects in South Sudan, Chad, and Nigeria. Discussions are also underway with UK country offices regarding future engagement in Afghanistan, Iraq, Myanmar, DRC, Cameroon and Syria. Given current budget constraints, greater coordination with partners will be needed moving forward. **[FCDO]**
- BMZ has launched its new Responsible Land Governance Programme, which was commissioned last year and officially kicked off in May. The programme currently focuses on incorporating approaches of responsible land governance into international agendas, while implementing country-level activities in Zambia, Madagascar and Nigeria. The final milestone event of the programme took place, including a study visit for land champions of partner countries to Germany. In parallel, BMZ continues to implement bilateral governance programmes in Brazil, Colombia, Senegal, Laos and Ethiopia. **[Germany; BMZ]**

Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Reach out to Land Portal, ILC and FAO	ASAP	Ward Anseew/FAO;

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
	colleagues for a coordination session at the next meeting.		GDPRD Secretariat