

16 September 2026

Minutes GDWGL Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Annkattrin Eidam**, *BMZ*
- **Claudia Tromboni**, *European Commission*
- **Ward Anseeuw**, *FAO (Chair)*
- **Jenny Lopez**, *FCDO*
- **Tanja Williams**, *GIZ*
- **Maria Andrea Baragan Porras**, *IFAD*
- **Rikke Olivera**, *IFAD*
- **Gemma Betsema**, *The Netherlands*
- **Ombretta Temptra**, *UN-Habitat*
- **Mika Torhonen**, *World Bank*

GDPRD Secretariat

- **Maurizio Navarra**
- **Michelle Tang**
- **Sierra Berardelli**
- **Dakyung Choi**

Guests

- **Chiara Kovarik**, *Gates Foundation*
- **Marcy Vigoda**, *International Land Coalition*
- **Ingeborg Gaarde**, *FAO*
- **Charl-Thom Bayer**, *Land Portal*

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	PRESENTER
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Ward/FAO
2.	Potential in-person GDWGL meeting in Rome	Ward/FAO
3.	Feedback from UNCCD COP17, preparations for CBD COP17, and UNFCCC COP31	Ward/FAO
4.	Tour de Table	All
5.	Coordination across global and national levels - International Land Coalition (ILC) - FAO - Land Portal	Marcy Vigoda/ILC, Ingeborg Gaarde/FAO, Charl-Thom Bayer/Land Portal
6.	Q&A and discussion on coordination presentations	Ward/FAO
7.	Closing	Ward/FAO

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome & Introduction

- Claudia Tromboni (*European Commission*) and Annkatrin Eidam (*BMZ*) joined the call for the first time. Chiara Kovarik (*Gates Foundation*) also joined as an observer.

2. Potential in-person GDWGL meeting in Rome

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To discuss the possibility of holding an in-person meeting in Rome in Q4 2026.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The possibility of holding an in-person meeting in Rome alongside the World Food Forum (WFF), Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and related land events was discussed.
- Since most land teams of member institutions, will not attend these events in person, organizing an in-person meeting in 2027 alongside the World Bank Land Conference in Washington, D.C. was discussed as the more realistic alternative.

3. Feedback from UNCCD COP17, preparations for CBD COP17, and UNFCCC COP31

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To share reflections on the three COPs and identify opportunities for collaboration.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- During UNCCD COP17, blockages in the formal agenda and negotiations shifted greater attention towards the action programme, including side events, technical exchanges and engagement with delegations. This created opportunities for strong coordination across the land and land rights sector, including several co-organized events, and helped raise the visibility of land tenure and land rights on the political agenda.
- Mongolia's positioning was also highlighted, particularly its focus on rangelands and pastoralists and the broader shift from decisions towards implementation. A pilot initiative to integrate land tenure indicators into the UNCCD reporting framework was launched. During the first week, outreach was conducted with all delegations, of which around 25 expressed interests, followed by a multilateral workshop in the second week attended by around 15 delegations.
- The pilot is expected to generate evidence, results and methodologies ahead of the next COP and the review of the UNCCD strategy towards 2030. Land-sector representatives were also actively engaged in the negotiations, with land-related references, including the use of the Global Report on Land, reflected in the final decisions.
- For CBD COP17, the FAO Land Tenure Team plans to use a similar approach to that followed at UNCCD COP17: bilateral engagement with national delegations during the first week, followed by multilateral consultations with interested countries during the second week. While land tenure indicators have already been adopted under the CBD, implementation and reporting remain limited, with only seven countries having reported against the indicator. The focus will therefore be on supporting wider implementation and reporting. FAO is also leading the development of the monitoring framework for the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment, which is expected to be

launched at CBD COP17. **[FAO]**

- UN-Habitat highlighted the links between land tenure, land management and urban and peri-urban development, including the role of local and municipal governments in addressing urban sprawl and land degradation. Similar messages on tenure security, housing and urban and peri-urban areas are expected to inform its engagement across the upcoming Rio Convention COPs. **[UN Habitat]**
- It was noted that issues including gender, civil society participation, Indigenous Peoples and local communities were also reflected in the land governance decision at UNCCD COP17. **[GIZ]**
- Germany highlighted the importance of synergies across the three Rio Conventions – UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC – and of better aligning national strategies on climate, biodiversity and land. The active involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities was also identified as a priority. **[BMZ]**

Discussion and Q&A:

- How is the FCLP Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC) linked to the broader Global Land Commitment discussed at UNCCD COP17? **[GIZ]**
 - FAO works on making the global commitment reframed so that several commitments, including FCLP's ILTC, will fall under a broader umbrella. **[FAO]**

4. Tour de Table

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The European Commission is preparing a new action with the International Land Coalition (ILC) of approximately EUR 4.2 million, with approval expected by the end of 2026 or early 2027. The action will support the implementation of the Global Gateway Strategy, with a focus on investment preparedness, and will build lessons learned from previous funding. It will also draw on ILC's global networks and may include on-demand support at country level. **[European Commission]**
- The Netherlands expects most projects under the current phase of the LAS programme (2019-2026) will be concluded this year. A recent meeting in Burundi focused on the sustainability of land governance interventions and how activities can continue after projects end. Under the second phase (2026-2034), programming is now being developed in Iraq, Palestine territories, Egypt, Chad, Burkina Faso and Bangladesh, with Mali, Niger, Lebanon, Senegal, Sudan and Ghana expected to follow later this year. Members working in these countries were invited to explore opportunities for exchange and collaboration. The LAS advisors will also reach out to donors in those countries proactively during the scoping phase. The meeting in Burundi also included representatives from the Swiss Development Cooperation and the World Bank. **[The Netherlands]**
- UN-Habitat provided an update on the ongoing reset of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), with five priority areas currently being taken forward: women's land rights; land tenure security in crisis and migration contexts; housing and informal settlements; land-based financing; and land for climate resilience and adaptation. It also shared updates on webinars on land registration and recordation tools, as well as upcoming sessions on land and conflict and Housing, Land and Property rights. Work on land tenure security and land tools is also continuing through the intergovernmental process on adequate housing. **[UN-Habitat]**

- IFAD reported that a new roadmap with ILC has been approved, building on previous collaboration between IFAD operations and ILC partners at country level. IFAD's land portfolio stocktake is also nearing completion, with findings to be shared once finalized. IFAD also expressed interest in exploring synergies in countries highlighted under Land at Scale, including Iraq, Palestine and Egypt. **[IFAD]**
- FCDO is continuing the Land Facility, with an increased focus on fragile and conflict-affected settings. Activities are underway in South Sudan, while scoping is taking place in Afghanistan. Work is also continuing in Brazil, and a possible new project in Colombia is being explored with the World Bank. FCDO noted that the Facility remains open to collaboration across different regions and country contexts. **[FCDO]**
- The World Bank noted that land operations are increasingly expected to demonstrate impact at scale. Achieving this requires prior policy work, pilot activities, institutional capacity and sustained engagement with clients. The Bank expressed interest in working with partners that have already established this groundwork and in linking these efforts to larger-scale investments. Current areas of work include land administration, recognition and registration of rights, digitization and modernization of land administration systems, urban land and private sector engagement. **[World Bank]**

5. Coordination across global and national levels

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To hear from the International Land Coalition, FAO and Land Portal on examples of coordination.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- ILC noted that the land sector does not lack information, but often lacks mechanisms that bring actors together around shared priorities. National Land Coalitions were presented as long-term multi-stakeholder platforms that can support coordination beyond individual projects. In Mongolia, collaboration between the National Land Coalition, national organizations and the National Land Office led to the first national dataset on pastoralist tenure security, which was launched at UNCCD COP17 and informed several policy actions. In Burkina Faso, the National Land Coalition is contributing to a World Bank-funded land and mining management project. ILC also reported that, over the past ten years, its work has contributed to increased tenure security for 9.5 million people, covering 51 million hectares, and to 202 policy changes. It encouraged greater use of existing national platforms and coordination structures. **[ILC]**
- FAO presented a light mapping mechanism for land reform initiatives in Africa, designed to show “who is doing what, where”. It stressed the distinction between coordination among national stakeholders and coordination among donors and development partners, noting that the presence of a multi-stakeholder platform does not necessarily mean that donor support is coordinated. Examples included Niger, where 14 development partners have supported the land policy process; Chad, where a task force brings together existing and incoming partners; and Cameroon, where partners aligned their support with the existing national land policy process and avoided setting up parallel processes. FAO also raised the need to better connect global and country-level coordination and to ensure that mapping exercises can be regularly maintained and updated. **[FAO]**
- Land Portal presented the Land Projects Database developed for the GDWGL. The database currently contains around 3,500 donor-funded projects from 81 donors across 154 countries, with approximately 80 per cent data completeness. The work has evolved from the original land map towards a more analytical project database, with a possible next step towards a

projects funding tracker. IATI is the main source of data. Possible further developments include analysis of funding trends and gaps, improved visualizations, regular analytical outputs and natural-language queries. Land Portal also noted the need for continued maintenance, improved reporting and feedback from users. **[Land Portal]**

6. Q&A and discussion on coordination presentations

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Is IATI a system that most partners report to, or are there still significant gaps? **[The Netherlands]**
 - Land Portal noted that IATI has limitations and gaps but remains one of the most reliable common sources currently available. Earlier project databases relied on donors updating information separately, which proved difficult to maintain. Improving the quality and completeness of reporting through IATI was therefore considered preferable to creating additional reporting systems. **[Land Portal]**
- Does the term “Funding Tracker” place too much emphasis on funding rather than the broader purpose of the tool? **[The Netherlands]**
 - ILC agreed that the tool should not become overly focused on the precision of funding figures, as this could distract from its broader purpose of understanding the overall landscape, including programmes, actors and trends. A broader project or project-intelligence framing was considered more appropriate. **[ILC]**
- Does the current mapping capture investments made directly by national governments in their own land sectors? **[UN Habitat]**
 - Land Portal noted that some government investments may be captured where they are linked to financing from multilateral institutions, but domestic public investment is not systematically reflected in the database. This remains a gap in the current overview of land-sector investment. **[Land Portal]**
- Following the three presentations, what should the group consider in taking the coordination work forward? **[FAO]**
 - Land Portal suggested carrying out more analysis of the existing data and testing the prototype with partners to better understand the types of questions and functions users would find useful. ILC highlighted the role of existing country-level structures, including National Land Coalitions, as well as possible links with UN Resident Coordinator Offices and UN Cooperation Frameworks. **[Land Portal]**

Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Members have been requested to consider the next co-chairmanship cycle for the GDWGL.	ASAP	All