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**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



 **UN  
WOMEN**

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women



## EXPERT GROUP MEETING

**SECURING WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS IN  
THE SDGS MONITORING FRAMEWORK :  
TOWARDS A MORE HARMONISED AND  
COORDINATED GLOBAL APPROACH**

**8-9 JULY 2017**

**NEW YORK, USA**

# Contents:

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<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Opportunities afforded by the 2030 Agenda &amp; Global Land Monitoring Initiative (GLII)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Gendered and integrated overview of the land rights indicators in the 2030 Agenda</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Monitoring global progress on women’s land rights under the SDGs</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Scoping women’s issues and concerns in the SDGs land indicators</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Advocating towards the reclassification and adoption of the global land rights indicators</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Opening, review of day’s programme and recap of Day One.</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Monitoring national progress on women’s land rights under the SDGs</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Actions to be taken and ways of working together</b>	<b>19</b>
<i>Roadmap for actions to securing women’s land rights in the SDGs</i>	21
<i>Concluding Reflections</i>	22
<b>Annexes</b>	<b>24</b>
<i>Annex 1. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS</i>	25
<i>Annex 2. : Key Messages and Recommendations from the Expert Group Meeting on Women Land Rights, held in New York on the 8th and 9th July 2017, to the 2017 High Level Political Forum.</i>	26
<i>Annex 3 : Attendance List EGM on Securing Women's Land Rights in the SDG's. 8 - 9 July 2017</i>	28

# Introduction

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This Expert Group Meeting (EGM<sup>1</sup>) was convened with the purpose of examining land indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promoting meaningful and harmonised approaches to monitoring women's land rights (WLR)<sup>2</sup>. It was convened by the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) of the GLTN, UN Habitat, and Oxfam with inputs and assistance from Landesa, UN Women and Huairou Commission as part of a process of work on the development of methodologies for the land related SDG indicator monitoring.

The EGM had a diverse attendance with 41 participants (29 women and 12 men); representatives from GLTN Partners, grassroots organisations, National Statistical Offices, multi-lateral organisations and UN agencies. The participants came from over 20 countries in five continents.

The timing of the EGM was of importance as it was organised to take advantage of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development that took place in New York in the days immediately following the EGM. This provided an opportunity for participants at the EGM to attend and take forward women's land rights recommendations in the HLPF. The HLPF was seen as an important moment and policy influencing space to discuss progress made on land tenure security related indicators (1.4.2, 5.a.1 and 5.a.2) and their progression movements from Tier III to Tier II and later Tier I during the IAEG on Sustainable Development due to take place in October [now postponed to November] 2017.

This report captures proceedings from this meeting including presentations, discussions on various issues related to women's land rights and the SDG indicators monitoring process. This report further highlights key issues of concern for the effective monitoring of secure tenure rights from a women's land rights perspectives, provides recommendations to custodian agencies working on these indicators and suggests approaches to enhanced coordination and harmonization of approaches for effective implementation and monitoring.

A summary of key messages from the EGM can be found in the communique from the meeting Annex 2 and a video with observations from the participants in this EGM is available [at this link](#).

## Opening Remarks

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The EGM started with introductions and a welcome note from Marc Wegerif, Land Rights Policy Lead at Oxfam. In his welcome remarks, Marc underscored the need for unity of purpose to secure women's land rights while acknowledging the diverse representation of participants in the meeting. He further acknowledged the efforts of the various stakeholders represented in the meeting in promoting and securing women's land rights. While chairing this session, Marc welcomed the high-level speakers to the meeting; Filiep Decorte, the Director of the UN Habitat office in New York; Victoria Stanley of the World Bank (WB) Group and Patricia Chaves from Espaco Feminista in Brazil.

In their remarks, the speakers asserted the need to take advantage of the SDGs to advance the women's land rights agenda as part of broader transformation of women's lives. They underscored the:

- Importance of advancing women's land rights as an independent objective and as essential to the achievement of other SDGs, taking advantage mainly of the provisions of SDG targets 1.4 and 5.a;
- Technical, logistical and financial challenges of implementing and monitoring progress on women's land rights, for which CSOs in collaboration with governments, private sector, UN agencies and donors all need to offer solutions;

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<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations and acronyms are listed in Annex 1, pg 20.

<sup>2</sup> For more for more details see the Concept Note circulated with the invitations.

- Importance of keeping the grassroots women’s agenda in the SDGs and focusing on ensuring actual benefits for grassroots women from governance regimes and related interventions to improve tenure security;
- Need to achieve sustainable development that “leaves no one behind”, calls for inclusive processes of land governance that put women, indigenous people and the most marginalised at the fore, while capturing their inputs and perspectives including traditional knowledge; and
- Need for enhanced coordination for effective monitoring and reporting on securing of women’s land rights at the country level, which needs to take a multi-stakeholder approach with women and local communities at the centre.

## Opportunities afforded by the 2030 Agenda & Global Land Monitoring Initiative (GLII)

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Everlyne Nairesiae, coordinator of GLII at the GLTN presented the achievement of this global initiative on land monitoring and highlighted the importance of securing the land related indicators included in the SDGs (1.4.2, 5.a.1 and 5.a.2) that directly relate to the monitoring of women’s land rights (power point presentation available<sup>3</sup>). GLII has operated since 2012 with the mission to “make global scale monitoring of land governance using comparable land indicators for comparable data a reality”.

Everlyne explained the specific land indicators for measuring land governance issues included in the SDG Targets 1, 2, 5, 11 and 15. More information about these Goals, Targets and indicators can be accessed through a GLTN-Land Portal page on Land and SDGs recently launched [<https://landportal.info/book/sdgs>]. She further emphasized the inter-linkages and inter-connected nature of the SDGs arguing that we must aim for effective integration to ensure women are not left behind.

Monitoring of responsible and equitable land governance as promoted by various frameworks and guidelines - including the SDGs, VGGTs and F&G - must be done through a robust and inclusive methodology for data collection and analysis including gender disaggregation. Reporting needs to inform and encourage policy reforms and programmes that secure land tenure rights for women. Those gathered in the EGM, especially NSOs charged with the responsibility of monitoring the land indicators, have an important role to ensure data produced is gender disaggregated, regularly collected and reported in a way that can inform decision making on the improvement of the status of women’s land rights.

## Gendered and integrated overview of the land rights indicators in the 2030 Agenda

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**Jennifer Lisher of the MCC** facilitated this session and started by explaining how key land indicators included in the SDGs were agreed on. Women’s rights and access to land is not a simple monitoring task, it has taken a lot of effort to figure out how it can be done. Gathering globally comparable gender disaggregated land data is not easy given different rights in different situations and in different countries.

It took a conscious fight to get Indicator 1.4.2 approved under the important Goal on ending poverty. Land is explicit in Goals 1, 2 and 5, but it is also relevant to others, like 11 and 15. It is clear we will not be able to

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<sup>3</sup> Power point presentations and other materials from the EGM can be downloaded from: <https://oxfam.box.com/s/4vrkzn0ugg5w8eleebr2iz7padl2yy2m>

achieve other wider poverty eradication goals without improving land governance and doing so by securing women's land rights.

We need to realise that countries will not be able to adopt new questionnaires or add new questions to surveys for every indicator, so we need a common approach to indicators and methodologies that can be used to measure several indicators in one process. We also need to make sure we can apply the methods across all countries, which means getting definitions and terminology commonly agreed so we all mean the same thing and understand each other as people working on land. Custodian agencies are working to harmonise key definitions tools for indicator 1.4.2 and 5a.1 with support from others in this EGM and this work needs to be built on.

Finally, just having the indicator is a catalyst, countries care about how their progress is assessed, so the Indicators may not be perfect, but just having them there is a valuable catalyst to action.

**Diana Fletschner of Landesa** presented on the land indicators in the SDGs and examined the indicators from a women's land rights perspective (power point available)

It is fantastic, because we have explicit public commitments from countries around the world to WLR. The Indicators and methods to measure them are a mechanism to hold leaders accountable to those commitments. We have already changed the conversation; this can be transformative. Our goal is not to have good measurement; it is to have real progress for women, the measurement of these commitments can help us get there.

There is still work to be done. There are 230 Indicators agreed for the SDGs, 7 refer to land and 3 refer to WLR. We are competing for space in the measurement of the SDGs. It is strategic to remember and keep reminding people that land rights affect a number of different development outcomes, including the overall achievement of the SDGs.

Land is relevant to and mentioned in different Goals, but "1.4.2 is our baby, it is important to us". The Indicator looks at the proportion of total adult population with secure land rights, we aim for as close to 100% as possible. We need to have a common understanding of what is meant by secure tenure rights to land. There are many sources and definitions of 'secure tenure rights'; this cannot be reduced to ownership.

There are basic components of rights, such as they need to be: recognized by all relevant stakeholders; enforceable; durable (long-term); independent of extra "mediation" by men; and not vulnerable to changes in context. If all these can be ticked, a person can say "I have secure rights". If my rights can change due to change in my marital status or a change of community leader, then I do not have secure rights.

Consulting on land related decisions is not bad, but if I have to consult and my husband doesn't have to consult, i.e. if it is not bio-directional, it is a problem. WLR are secure when their community is secure and women are secure within that community.

**Indicator 1.4.2** reduces all this complexity into two factors in order to operationalise measurement. It looks at whether the adult population (women and men): 1) have legally recognized documentation; and 2) perceive their rights to land as secure. This is importantly disaggregated by sex and by tenure type. This is the tip of the iceberg of understanding the complexity of WLR, but we have to use it as a pragmatic means to getting some global measurement. The positive is that the Indicator is: meaningful, the perception question tells what people are experiencing in practice; based on primary data (not expert opinions, or selective representation through the HH head). This indicator is universally applicable; and feasible. It will not diagnose what is wrong, but it will tell us if something is going wrong.

**Indicator 5.a.1** is very similar to 1.4.2. The only real difference is that 5.a.1 only looks at agricultural land and the agricultural population, whereas 1.4.2 looks at the total population. It is very important to harmonize these; agencies cannot collect different data for these overlapping areas. We must use the same terminology and definitions and use the same instruments for gathering the data. But, there are currently contradictions

in the metadata documents for these two Indicators, such as the 5.a.1 approach having a problematic focus on ownership to the exclusion of other tenure types and 1.4.2 not yet clear that self-reporting by individuals is essential for effective gender disaggregation, especially for picking up intra-household differences, as the 5.a.1 approach has effectively argued.

These two Indicators can both use surveys for the gathering of data (the required data is not available in administrative data). Existing surveys need to be adapted with new questions and changes to sampling approach to ensure they are national and use 'self-reporting'. This is all possible but will require the will and resources to do it.

Indicator 5.a.2 is different as it looks at the proportion of countries with legal frameworks (including customary law) that include measures to reduce gender differences in land rights. The data gathering for this would be by expert analysis based on six proxies showing the country has laws in place that require: 1) joint registration of property; 2) spousal consent to dispose of or encumber property; 3) equal inheritance rights to sons and daughters and a share to any surviving spouse; 4) budgetary commitments to strengthen women's land rights; 5) customary law, if recognised, to protect women's land rights; and 6) women's inclusion required in land management and administration structures.

These Indicators all need to be moved to Tier II (5.a.1 is already there) and then Tier I, in a way that does not lose key attributes essential to measuring progress on WLR. In summary the requirements for different Tiers are: Tier III, no data and no agreed upon methodology; Tier II, not all data available, but methodology agreed and believed to be viable; and Tier I, the data is available.

Diana closed by reminding the participants that this EGM is an opportunity to agree on a strategy to support reclassification of indicators including mapping strategic opportunities for advocacy on this.

**Lauren Pandolfelli of UN DESA**, talked on "SDG Indicator 5.a.1" (power point is available).

The UN DESA run EDGE project made a key contribution to the development of the methodology for indicator 5.a.1. EDGE is a multi-year project that focuses on closing the gender gap in asset ownership. It started before the SDGs were agreed and involved piloting in seven countries, so methods and tools have been well tested.

The recommended data sources for 5.a.1 are national household surveys (NHS) with amendment to current common approaches to ensure "self-reporting" by one randomly-selected adult within HHs. They found this quite feasible and as this can speed up the data gathering compared to one member reporting for a whole HH, the costs of this change are not necessarily large.

It has been found best to rely on "reported ownership" (measures people's self-perceptions about their ownership status), as it is not viable to verify if they are indeed registered as owners. In one of the pilots only 25% of reported owners were able or willing to produce a document to prove it.

They also rely on a selection of proxies for ownership as rights to ownership vary between countries and do not exist at all in some countries. Thus they consider a person as having "ownership" (secure right to land) when they: have their name listed as an owner/rights holder on a formal document; or, have the right to sell the land; or have the right to bequeath the land.

Further plans for implementation include: Partnering with 1.4.2 technical group to work on harmonization (developing a module for 5.a.1 and 1.4.2); looking at moving from use of ownership to rather look at secure rights; dialoguing with survey groups (e.g. those working on DHS, MICS) about integrating minimum set of questions into standardized and national surveys; and building the capacity of countries to collect the data.

#### **Questions and answers for the session.**

- What is the timeframe for changing Tier levels of indicators?
- What are the frameworks of funding this work?

- Are there good practices from the pilot testing of the methodology?
- How to apply on ground as it is so complex? Noting the need to ensure women and girls have capacity and are involved, the challenges of patriarchy and corruption, and the importance of securing children's rights to land in places where there is a high mortality rate.
- There is a need to look at access to finance for development of land as this is often the constraint (access to financial services is also identified in the Targets).
- How will we compute the outcomes for 1.4.2? e.g. is it perception + documentation = secure rights? or?
- Lauren was asked to elaborate on the important issue of the time and cost requirements for implementing the proposed new survey modules. The potential extra cost is a major factor in feasibility.
- A concern was raised about potential backlash, such as violence by men, and limits on transactions if the 5.a.2 requirement of "mandatory joint registration" is implemented.
- What does 5.a.1 having already been promoted to Tier II mean for harmonisation with 1.4.2? Was the use of "ownership", rather than secure tenure rights, significant in facilitating the move?
- What mechanisms are in place to analyse the costs of gathering and analysing the new data required?
- To what extent have we engaged national governments and their ministries, they will have to play a role in implementing (e.g. FAO can't gather data in every country)? There is currently no harmonization at national level around these issues. How will we engage at national level with governments, national statistical organisations (NSOs) and civil society (CS)?
- Are we measuring ownership or access rights? Access rights can also be documented, so we need to be clear what is being measured.
- There are disparities between customary and national level laws and experiences, this contradiction may come up as a challenge in monitoring.
- Are national governments ready and able to deliver? How can we give more opportunity for CS or universities, which have been little mentioned, to be involved?

**Response from Lauren:** Tier I requires the data to be available for 50% of countries and 50% of the population of each region. NSOs are our clients and we worked closely with them in the seven countries where we piloted. CSOs and women's rights activists have to engage NSOs to ensure data is gathered, there has to be political pressure for this to be done, because it does cost. The more people vocalise the need for this data the more successful we will be in getting this done. Both indicators (1.4.2 and 5.a.1) look at adult populations (18 and older), but maybe in some countries it will be useful and context appropriate to look at younger people as well. This could be done in countries for their use along with the data gathering to meet minimum SDG requirements. We are finalizing our guidelines for respondent selection, the piloting showed there is a need for a change in approach (to surveys) and for a lot of enumerator training; it is not easy to move from proxy to self-reporting.

**Response from Diana:** The implementation of this will be complex at the levels of the NSOs. But even though a complex issue, we can get this to five simple questions that will indicate the level of land tenure security women and men have, it will be possible to take this to the ground to empower rural women and others. These five questions can be asked by CSO groups and by leaders at the local level. Women can use these to show how their rights are secured or not in particular communities and to use this in advocacy. A challenge of focussing on ownership is that we will miss a large part of the more vulnerable that we are more interested in, whereas, if you collect info on all tenure types you will also get ownership; my plea is to broaden the question beyond ownership. On the timeframes, the IAEG meets in October [later moved to November] and will decide on methodologies for these Indicators, so we will need to get all the information together, as was done for 5.a.1, before then. The data for SDG monitoring will be gathered by NSOs, not by FAO or other custodian agencies. The custodian agencies will be involved in compiling all data at an

international level based on what is provided by countries. There is a danger that we get to the point of people being committed to act and having the data and diagnosis, but not having the tools (such as solutions for weak women's land rights) to act; we need to keep attention on the need for action to improve land governance and rights. On the computation, the way it is written in indicator 1.4.2 is perception plus documents should equal secure tenure, but there could be other ways to compute this. Another computation challenge is when a person has more than one piece of land and is secure on one, but not on another; do we count them as secure?

## Monitoring global progress on women's land rights under the SDGs

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**Everlyne Nairesiae of GLII** opened the session and gave an input on the SDG monitoring framework.

She clarified that there are now 240 indicators; 10 more have been added, but the land Indicators are not affected. She also explained that the Custodian Agencies (CA), selected by the UN IAEG on SDGs, lead the development of the methodology for the agreed indicators. It is required that the CAs consult widely and work with the NSOs involving them in the development of the methodology. It is also essential to work with the land agencies/ministries.

Most Tier I indicators are those that were being implemented in the MDGs so they have robust and tested methodologies. "Our" land indicators - that are now included due to our advocacy - are not Tier II as they were not in the MDGs so new methodologies are needed. There is also no global professional body for land governance that we can automatically turn to for endorsement of the approach.

UN Habitat and WB are working on an assessment of NSO capacity for SDG monitoring. Capacity development is critical for NSOs to be able to gather this newly required data and report on it. We need to also reach out to other groups, such as CSOs and academics, to involve them in developing capacity to be able to support and engage with the monitoring.

FAO and UN Women have done a great job to move Indicator 5.a.1 to Tier II. Two EGMs were recently conducted on Indicator 1.4.2, to prepare for Tier II, one on HH surveys and one on Administrative data. Now we have a very important moment in October [later moved to November] of the IAEG that will review the Tier status of the Indicators. We need to show that the processes have been followed, the required data can be gathered and key stakeholders are in support. Pilots are being done on Indicator 5.a.2 as part of getting it ready for reclassification in October.

As has been said, linking the methodologies for different Indicators related to land is very important for a streamlined approach that will be more manageable, especially for the NSOs. In doing this we need to apply a strong gender lens and keep WLR in the foreground.

**Katia Araujo of Landesa** – Opportunities for advocacy at the global level (power point is available)

We need to think at least to the end of 2018, we have a long road ahead of us to move the key Indicators on land issues to Tier II, then Tier I and to ensure implementation. This session is to collectively think about the global opportunities for advocacy. We, as a land community, came together to push for land rights Goals and indicators, we cannot drop the ball now.

In the coming days we will be advocating at the UN HLPF on Sustainable Development organised under ECOSOC. The HLPF has gained importance, this year over 2,000 participants registered. The organisers allocated 80 spaces (expanded to 100 due to pressure) for side events, but there were over 300 applications including many from UN Agencies, which get priority. Our request for a side-event was rejected due to this



pressure and there is now only one land focussed side event. This is the context, we still have a lot of work to keep this going and keep attention on the importance of WLR.

The HLPF will receive Voluntary National Reports (VNRs) from over 40 countries. Katia explained the details of how to participate in the HLPF including through the Major Groups (MGs) and other spaces and events and briefings that will happen as part of the HLPF. The Women's MG and Indigenous People's MG are important allies we should work closely with.

The UN General Assembly in September will review global partnerships on SDGs, we should be there as the land community. The IAEG in October is a big milestone, only a small group of people can participate in this space, we can find different roles and channels to engage and support even if not there physically.

The 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) meeting, October 9-13, will review its own monitoring and lessons from SDG implementation. It will look at the HLPF outcomes and plan for HLPF 2018. The Civil Society Mechanism of the CFS is a space to engage. We also need to work more on the integration of the VGGTs and SDGs as complimentary international frameworks.

The UNFCCC COP 23 in Bonn in November 7-17th is a potentially relevant space. The Paris Agreement had nothing on land, but we know that there is a strong connection between land governance and climate change as well as impact on land from some responses to climate change.

It is import to have ongoing engagement with national governments on the SDGs as they are the ones going to the IAEGs and other spaces. The donor working group with representatives from different countries is an important space.

The CSW next year (2018) March is focused on rural women; an excellent space to profile the WLR issue.

The biennial Africa Land Policy Conference, happening this year November 14–17<sup>th</sup> is an important space.

The World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur from February 7–13<sup>th</sup> will address urban land issues.

Habitat for Humanity has an Africa meeting in August in South Africa in partnership with GLTN. They will also have similar meetings in Asia and Latin America. All part of their Solid Ground campaign.

National level engagement with governments can be good, but is also a challenge in some national contexts where there are confrontational issues such as forced evictions being dealt with. We need to find ways to work around these challenges and build trust.

Other issues, events and influencing opportunities mentioned by participants:

- Global gender statistics forum in 2018 in Japan. Strong focus now on the Gender relevant SDGs.
- Put a gender lens on all the SDG Goals to ensure they are dealt with holistically and not in silos.
- Use regional and sub-regional platforms where heads of state and others are meeting. Also organise bilateral forums with governments at such events.
- Some national governments are hard to work with, but it can still be possible to work with local government, for example in Brazil they work with local governments and local government associations.
- The WB land and poverty conference, they will try to avoid clash of dates with CSW this year.
- We should engage professional associations like International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).
- There are different ministries involved in countries; we need to look at how best to coordinate and be strategic about whom we engage with at country level.
- The Kilimanjaro initiative is an opportunity as we are planning to celebrate the first anniversary.
- Some governments are more organised and open to engage with CSOs and some CSO initiatives have done better to establish that engagement. We can share and learn from each other.

# Scoping women's issues and concerns in the SDGs land indicators

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**Venge Nyirongo** of UN Women opened the session, which involved break out groups and plenary feedback on the topics: Women's land rights issues and concerns in relation to the definition, adoption and/or implementation of the land rights indicators; and What can be done to address or minimize those concerns?

Venge contextualised the discussion noting some key issues that speak to WLR and tenure security:

- Women are not a homogenous group, therefore the approaches we take need to adapt so they can effectively respond to the variety of women's needs.
- Women's voice, agency and role in decision-making relating to the determination and upholding of their rights, including the nature of women's participation in the institutions that decide land rights issues.
- Social norms at play in different contexts in relation to gender and rights to access and control land;
- Considering the legal and regulatory frameworks, how far can formal rights actually influence decisions made on rights to land? How strongly are the normative frameworks changing gender roles?
- The state of the environment and how women interact with land and natural resources. For example, a study in Kyrgyzstan found a lack of water in certain areas disrupted land related roles and decision making of women. Men took over decision making on water as it became more commodified and women's interests were side-lined.
- Analyse the state of land governance and administration and the positions of states. Understand the politics of land tenure, the different types of tenure and different systems at play including peace and security as an overarching issue where women are often placed at a disadvantage in conflict situations.

Three breakout groups were organised each with a focus on one of the following:

1. Rural
2. Urban
3. Customary lands and indigenous territories

The instruction was to tease out the tenure types existing and the issues affecting women within each of these and look at what can be done to address the challenges women face. The groups were asked to think beyond the SDGs to look at the real situation of women.

## **Group 1. Rural women**

The group report back/conclusions:

- There is a need to disaggregate further taking into account factors like mobility (hard to capture in the data), age, marital status, livelihood type and income levels. There is an intersectionality between gender and other factors that divide and marginalise some.
- The challenge is how to do surveys to pick up gender differences including intra-household differences and keep the questionnaires short and affordable to implement. The land indicator questions need to be part of existing HH surveys and there will be a cost for new work. It is not good enough to talk to whoever the HH head is or whoever happens to be at home. Important to talk to men and women and to have self-reporting. The enumerator may have to visit a few times to get right person and data. Having women as enumerators is important.
- Women and women's organisations can be involved in gathering and analysing data, as per examples in Brazil. This empowers them to be involved in decision making.
- How do you capture different land uses? This needs to be in the data and include pastoral and forest land use amongst others. Land uses are not just single uses or static.

- How to transform monitoring into policy change? For policy makers to use this data for policy reforms.
- Issue of land seen as an economic asset, do rural women always want ownership or control? And land is also more than an economic asset.
- Dispute resolution mechanisms and justice and enforcement of bi-laws and non-formal mechanisms that can help with disputes. Important is that women have access to these and are heard in them.

### **Group 2. Urban women:**

- Women are not a homogenous group, there are different women with different tenure types. The group spent some time identifying some of the different categories of women and types of tenure.
- Women are faced with significant inheritance issues in various parts of the world.
- Women's access to land is often an issue of knowledge. Many women don't know their rights. We, therefore, need to consider: a) Awareness-raising; b) Public education on land rights; c) Reforming land administration systems; and d) Land mapping and data gathering led by women.
- There is a great focus on 'land as an asset' as opposed to 'land as identity', thus disenfranchising many women in various parts of the world for whom identity is important.
- Women's access to justice and land administration systems is a challenge. For many women it isn't easy to interact with these formal systems due to costs, time limitations and lack of information.
- Access to finance and economic opportunities is a challenge and linked to the lack of secure land tenure. Without finance many women struggle to use and maintain rights to land that they do get.
- The SDG indicators are the start of a more complex and challenging journey, governments and others who are committed to advancing WLR will need to go beyond the SDGs in implementing and monitoring.

### **Group 3. Women on Customary lands and in indigenous territories**

- There is a challenge to define proxies and methods for measuring improvements in WLR in customary and communal settings. Without this we tend to default to problematic individualised ownership models that don't work for many communities.
- The RRI "Power and Potential" paper identified indicators/proxies for secure tenure on customary land: 1) Constitutional Equal Protection; 2) Affirmation of Women's Property rights; 3) Equal inheritance rights; 4) Membership of the group specified for women; 5) Community level inheritance; 6) Right to vote; 7) Involvement in leadership; and 8) Accessible and functioning dispute resolution. These are useful to consider and build on.
- Some communal land systems can be more empowering to women and some more productive, while others are very disempowering. There is a question as to how important it is to document land rights; in some cases it seems unnecessary. Yet in approving the SDGs a normative decision has been taken that documentation, even of community land, is a good step for development.
- The group agreed on applying a bundle of rights approach that can accommodate a range of options and clearly signal to governments that WLR should be improved, but that there are different ways to do it.
- It is possible to apply the perception of security of land tenure question in communal land settings whether they have documentation or not. It may be necessary to frame the question differently in customary settings and to also look at the overall community perception of the level of tenure security, with the community as the unit of analysis. This is important in addition to the individual perception, as the individual cannot be secure if the community is not secure, but may not be aware of larger threats.
- Language is very important and varies in different countries and areas, particularly conceptual words like "ownership" can mean different things and have to be understood in the local context. We need

to allow for national contextualization of the language and approach within a globally applicable methodology.

- In short, there is more work to be done, but we did find some concrete areas of agreement as mentioned above.

### **Concluding discussion in Plenary**

Land is not just a means of economic empowerment for women, land means a lot more for women. Land means sustaining livelihoods for them and the next generation and land means sustaining the environment. Land is connected to access to water and other natural resources, there is a particular cost to women when such access/rights are removed. We talk economic empowerment of women, but the significance of land is beyond economic, it is about well-being. We need to convince governments and others of the importance of WLR beyond economic benefits, especially as in some places there is growth without secure tenure.

A woman having her own land and wealth (capital) and being able to earn for herself is important in the struggle for women's freedom. Don't undermine the value of land as an economic asset and what putting that in women's hands can do.

It will be very difficult to achieve universal definitions of tenure types, so we need to allow for the existence national variations.

We should not oversimplify. For example, we have to think what is community, what is customary, tradition or faith based. We need to do more work on definitions and approaches.

We must take into account situations of conflict and other crisis which often lead to women losing out. For example, women in Rwanda who lost spouses during the genocide struggled to sustain their rights to land. When crises are over it can also be hard for women to reassert rights to land that were disrupted during the crisis, male elites can take advantage of the situation to grab land.

## **Advocating towards the reclassification and adoption of the global land rights indicators**

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**Katia Auraujo** led the session focussed on the coordination of our advocacy towards the reclassification and prioritization of the global land indicators at least from now until September 2018.

The session Objectives were to: 1) Build consensus on a process to continue strong collaboration and collective advocacy efforts; 2) Create a collaborative, peer-to-peer process resulting in agreement on common messages to support advocacy efforts and the reclassification of all land indicators from Tier III to Tier I; and 3) Agree on strategies for embedding these messages in NGO, government and other positions in support of the global land indicators that integrate principles of gender equality.

Groups were asked to work on: 1) Strategies; 2) Timeline; 3) Key activities and opportunities to coordinate Op-Eds and communication strategies; and 4) Agree on how to ensure good communication between us.

### **Report back from the groups and plenary discussions.**

#### **Group 1:**

- Gender needs to become mainstreamed in and across the SDGs. We need to lobby for gender to be addressed within land rights policies and we need to have women at the centre of the processes.
- National coalitions and movements of land and women's organisations working together to put the SDG indicators and WLR on the national agenda.
- The financial and private sectors participation to advocate the efforts to advance WLR can assist. Private sector partners are missing players in these discussions so far.

- Train the media so that they will talk about the positive aspects of advancing WLR. Do more social media campaigning on WLR.
- Need to work with and capitalize on existing coalitions and platforms such as GLTN, Landesa, Kilimanjaro Initiative, Oxfam's Grow campaign and rural women's assemblies in southern Africa.
- We need to connect all the actors and make this a big issue, we need to spread the information.
- The group did not develop a timeline, but noted October is the month of rural women and the need for us to come up with strong messages on progressing these indicators up the Tiers.

#### **Group 2:**

- The group had a wide-ranging discussion on matters not in the indicators and decided that while there is a focus on the SDGs, we should encourage countries to have a wider discussion on advancing WLR that goes beyond the SDGs.
- Other stakeholders to engage with include: land ministries; planning ministries and teams in governments; policy makers and politicians; marriage registrars; media; faith-based actors; etc...
- Need messages for media and to talk to those at national and other levels who are doing the SDG related messaging as we see other issues, such as health profiled far more than land.
- For Peer-to-peer exchange, we can continue to use the Land Portal and other online spaces. Need to share our thought leadership, we can do better about sharing research that each organisation has done.
- The GLII and GLTN to play the role of coordinating and planning actions.
- Core statement on what we as a group value and promote: gender equality; all types of tenure; land beyond economic; acknowledge diversity of women; and action and monitoring beyond the SDGs (they are a minimum and only a starting point).
- Important words/phrases: enforcing and protecting existing rights; addressing cultural barriers to enjoyment of rights; articulate why WLR are important in and of themselves and essential for the wider success of the SDGs as a whole. Motivate the importance of monitoring WLR and offer solutions for how.

#### **Group 3:**

- We have a chicken and egg situation where we need to move the indicators forward quickly, but also need to inform and have the support of as many stakeholders as possible, which can take time.
- Need to discuss more about strategy and do joint advocacy so that we are really prepared. E.g. on the HLPF Ministerial Declaration the land community came together to get a paragraph in the Declaration. But if we were more organized it could have been stronger.
- Need to keep doing more to ensure grassroots and country level work informs the global level, to avoid contradictions such as land disappearing from the global agenda, while it remains key for many people on the ground.
- Engage with the LPI to promote in Africa and coordinate with their monitoring work.
- Many women's rights social movements have not strongly taken on land issues; how can we bring them into the process so that land can be core in their messaging?
- We need to break out of our land sector silo to go beyond having conversations between ourselves and instead engage much more with other sectors.
- Communication; how can we translate the technical issues to digestible messages that can work on social media for a wider audience? We need to be better at communicating the importance of land and gather the data to generate inspiring stories with women at the centre.
- At national level there is a need to coordinate between different authorities with interest in the SDGs and WLR and to take a multi-stakeholder approach involving all ministries (e.g. Gender, Agric, Health)
- Work with the CSW as a strategy to have land as a priority with their theme on rural women next year. We need to follow through to ensure WLR are prominent in the agreed conclusions

- Identify champions at local level to promote WLR and the SDGs.

# Day Two

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## Opening, review of day's programme and recap of Day One.

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**Marc** welcomed everyone back and introduced the revised programme for the day.

**Jane Katz, Habitat for Humanity, and Kafui Kuwonu, WILDAF**, led a recap of the first day. All participants shared 1 or 2 things they learnt from the day and new things they want to raise that are not yet addressed.

**Examples of some of the lessons and issues that were important to participants are:**

- Clarity on the two tiers in the SDG process, i.e. what is tier II, tier I, etc..
- The challenge of applying globally agreed indicators in different country contexts with little space to contextualise and involve women themselves in collecting the data.
- The challenge of the costs of collecting the new and gender disaggregated data required. Who will pay?
- Learning a lot about the concepts behind the indicators.
- Impressed by the presentations and the sophistication of the tools and the criteria being developed.
- The need to ensure transparency and availability of the data to CS, it is part of democratic struggle.
- Grassroots women need to be at the centre to champion the work.
- Need to involve governments, ensure they are on board and that NSOs are given capacity for their role.

**Diana and Jennifer** explained a few key points to contribute to a common understanding.

The SDG monitoring is a very simplified process that does not tell us the full complexity of the situation of WLR, but it is still an important measure and it has to be limited in scope to be viable. The SDGs are going on no matter what and this is a tremendous opportunity to put these issues of importance on the table. If we are going to be involved there are compromises we have to make in order to 'move the needle'. But there should also be red lines. While we can debate complexity here, we have to be clear and careful about the message that we take to other places, we have to communicate that this (measuring improvements in WLR) can be done, or it will be left out. As the simplified SDG monitoring can tell us there is a problem, but not give us a detailed diagnosis, CS can play a role in explaining why the problem and what can be done about it.

## Monitoring national progress on women's land rights under the SDGs

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The session was introduced and chaired by **Siraj Sait** of the University of East London. This session is an opportunity to hear a range of perspectives and practical experiences from different actors.

**Salma Hasnayan**, from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (presentation is available). National processes for prioritisation, definition, implementation and monitoring of land indicators.

- BBS (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics) do HH Income and Expenditure surveys every five years and agricultural survey every ten years. These do not currently have sex-disaggregated data.
- BBS has identified the data gaps for the analysis of SDG goals and targets and produced a report on this: "Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective" (available with workshop presentations). This is a good practice other NSOs can learn from.

- BBS has human resource limitations and budget constraints to achieve all that is being asked in order to monitor 240 indicators; this is a burden on NSOs. Harmonization of the methodologies is essential.
- Ensuring the reliability of the data is difficult, the sample size has to be acceptable, etc...
- BBS is coordinating with other ministries to improve admin data so it can be used to monitor the progress of some of the SDG goals and targets. SDG progress of different ministries is monitored and coordinated from Prime Ministers Office
- Global partnership must be there otherwise it is very difficult to complete the work. Countries must have strong commitments and internal coordination as well.
- They are waiting for and expecting an adaptable methodology for NSOs to come from UNSC.
- Strong communication/dialogue between users and the producers of the data is essential.

**Luca Chinotti** ILC (presentation is available). Synergies and complementarities between the SDGs and the VGGTs

VGGTs and where we are 5 years after their adoption:

- Strengths: legitimate; comprehensive; includes a theory of change (TOC) and have had an impact.
- Limitations: not perfect; implementation at country level is slow, there has been some successes but it is uneven; no real monitoring/accountability mechanism in place yet.
- Specific opportunities in 2017: review after 5 years of implementation at CFS meetings in October.
- How to overcome challenges and re-energize VGGTs implementation? We need to discuss how to increase high level political attention and political will to implement, including at the country level.
- What we should do to ensure that SDGs processes contribute to VGGTs implementation and help to overcome existing challenges:
  - Put land higher on agenda and link more clearly, including in our messaging, the SDGs and VGGTs.
  - Bring together VGGTs and SDGs implementation. There is untapped opportunity to multiply and widen the number of actors committed/engaged and thus the likelihood of having traction at county level.
  - Land related SDG indicators should be implemented in a way that is linked with a broader, more detailed process and approach to land rights and governance of tenure. The SDGs only address a small part of what is needed on WLR, we should not lose the more complete approach in the VGGTs.
  - Problem that the CFS Monitoring process is not moving forward. We need to be creative to develop credible monitoring and work on the SDGs monitoring could assist with that.

**Hosaena Ghebru**, of LPI / IFPRI. Synergies and complementarities between the SDGs and the LPI F&G

They are setting up the Monitoring and Evaluation of Land in Africa (MELA) as a joint programme between LPI and IFPRI. Member States have agreed to prioritize land governance and provide budget and institutional frameworks for improving it, involving: Equitable access to land for all land users; Secure land rights to women; and Action areas include prioritizing land governance in national land and development strategies.

MELA is a two-year pilot project, with the methodology and framework for implementation still a work in progress. They have 20 core indicators and 20 custom indicators, want to provide a platform to enable comparison between countries while also allowing for national context differences.

A key objective is to build national capacities; capacity to collect, analyse and report on land related data. Countries have committed to regular reporting to the AU, but no country has reported yet.



The selection criteria for pilot countries; 'low hanging fruit' where data is available; and regional balance. The 12 countries are: Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

They want to be participatory, trying to work with land agencies/ministries and NSOs and keep space for CSOs. They are trying to align with the SDG indicators.

**Fatouma Sissoko**, of the African Centre for Statistics (presentation is available). Role of the NSOs and challenges they face.

Africa is implementing both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 (strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development in Africa). There is monitoring of the 2030 Agenda at national, continental as well as global level.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual AUC and ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance recommended alignment of National Development Plans with Agenda 2063 and SDGs and requested AUC, ECA and AfDB to develop an Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation framework with a harmonised set of indicators.

The National Statistical Systems are composed of NSOs and other institutions producing the administrative and survey data essential for measuring the SDGs. The NSOs lead the national strategy for statistics and engage with data producers to provide advice on methods and standards and then analyse the data.

There is a key advocacy role for the development of reliable statistics. Key challenges are:

- Inadequate prioritization and funding for statistics.
- Weak national statistical systems and weak coordination.
- Limited autonomy and capacity of NSOs.
- Methodological issues and limited availability, timeliness and quality of data; 20% of African countries lack recent census data, some are relying on census data from the 1970s.

Data gaps are key issues in SDGs and Agenda 2063; only 37.8% of SDG indicators have data to measure progress in Africa. Coverage of each goal/target is uneven: Goals 3, 7, 9 have >60% coverage; but Goals 11 and 13 have <10%.

**Naome Kabanda**, of the Uganda, Ministry of Lands (presentation is available). Role of the land agencies and challenges they face. Lands in Uganda is a three in one ministry; land, housing, and urban development. The ministry is mandated to deal with land and not only in terms of policy, also the land registration process.

Land functions in Uganda have been decentralized so the ministry concentrates on policy development and laws with their role in implementation being to following-up at local level where land institutions are.

Many land sector laws have not been revised, but in 1995 a new Constitution was adopted and in 2013 a new National Land Policy was finalised. They are now reviewing all land laws to align them with the Constitution and the Land Policy. They have developed the National Gender Strategy on Land.

There are different tenure systems and the rate of registration depends on the type of tenure system, i.e. Freehold system; Customary system; Leasehold system. The registration system was brought from Australia and it is still a challenge to operate it in Uganda.

The land ministries/agencies can play a critical role in the SDG process. There is now a Land Information System in Uganda to computerize all land records and issuing of land titles, this will provide much needed data. The role of land agencies in SDG Agenda:

- As custodians of land information the agency is a primary source for collection of data.
- Availing statistics on documentation and registration of land tenure rights across the county.
- Influencing legal reforms to ensure that women's land rights are advanced.
- Coordination with other ministries/agencies and with FAO on SDG monitoring.
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The main challenges are:

- Capacity to be able to deliver on objectives.
- Resources; fitting the government budgeting cycle is essential.
- Dissemination of information.
- Defining roles between actors; need to come up with a structure to define these roles.
- Finding champions for SDG and WLR monitoring.
- Coordination and reporting mechanisms, because different actors have different interests.

**Solange Bandiaky-Badji**, of Rights and Resources Institute (RRI) tackled the role of the women's rights agencies and challenges they face

Land tenure and governance focus has traditionally been about rights to agricultural land and private property. But these are limited, the new report by RRI "Power and Potential", looks at laws on rights and access to forests. The focus is on indigenous and rural women who are key. The RRI mission is to focus on indigenous and community rights; 2.5 billion people, more than half women, depend on this land.

The RRI report identified proxy indicators showing what we need to look at, such as confirmation of women's membership of communities and equal inheritance rights. They offer these as a way of looking at and assessing women's rights in community land contexts. Robust methodologies are also needed for instruments that can measure women's indigenous and customary tenure rights.

They have assessed the legal frameworks from 30 low and middle income countries and most do not meet the CEDAW commitments and recommendations. Most Governments ratify agreements, but fail to implement at the national level. There is, however, a lot that can be pulled from international frameworks, like the VGGTs, and these need to be used to hold governments accountable.

To give women meaningful rights to community lands and forests we need to address governance, dispute resolution mechanisms. There is a need to ensure access to education, justice and health services.

There is a need to increase coordination, collaboration and information sharing on women's forest and community land tenure rights. Involve organisations dealing with women's rights, land and justice. Consistently collect and make available information on tenure rights of local and indigenous communities.

### **Questions, answers and discussion in plenary.**

The inputs were appreciated. It was noted that we need to be careful to not set the bar so high that implementation is impossible. We can continue to review as we proceed and further develop approaches, especially once indicators are Tier II. It could be useful to get the TOC for the VGGTs and develop on this for the outcomes of the SDGs and this process on WLR, we are not yet clear enough on our TOC.

There were some worries related to: the notion of data 'producers' and data 'users', this is not liked as information is power, we need to shift to look at data in a different way; do we all understand gender in the same way? We need to have agreement about definitions; and we need to think about implementation, land law reforms aren't going to improve WLR unless we squarely address land rights and ensure implementation.

Administrative data should be easier to obtain and this should be brought together with data that development partners are collecting. There needs to be recognition of the validity of people's perceptions of land tenure security; it is not just about legal and 'ownership' documents but rather the continuum of rights.

For now, the administrative data across most countries is not of a good enough quality and reliability and does not have adequate gender disaggregation. There are processes to improve this and this has a lot of political support from ministers who have been part of the discussions.

The TOC of the VGGTs has developed through discussion. We don't need a fully-fledged TOC for the SDG, it is a high-level commitment and monitoring mechanism. Getting there we need to use other instruments. More important is to integrate with the VGGT and other frameworks.

The addition of any questions to census and other national surveys has big implications for costs and feasibility. There is an African initiative on surveys where countries are assessing their surveys and developing plans for improvement.

It does not change everything or overcome all discrimination, but you have moved a big step if you get the woman's name on the title, she has a new big possibility to argue for her rights.

## Actions to be taken and ways of working together

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Everlyne introduced the session, reminding the participants that this EGM is to provide the opportunity to strategize on advancing WLR in the SDGs and their implementation and monitoring. We need to know how the different indicators will spur action to implement the changes that we want to see. We have discussed the international influencing opportunities, now we want to give more attention to the important national level influencing and what we can do in our organisations as well as the next steps we can take to sustain our engagement as a coordinated group committed to WLR.

**Objective of the session:** identify actions to be taken and ways of working together for advancement of women's land rights going forward.

### Breakout Session 1 to identify:

1. National advocacy opportunities and actions; target countries, institutions to engage at national level, and how to engage.
2. Ways of working for coordinated learning and advocacy for women's land rights going forward (global and linking local to global). Who? Any volunteers?
3. Technical support and financial support needs and resource mobilization ideas and opportunities (what do we need? Where and how can we get it?)

### **Group reports**

#### Group 1 – National advocacy opportunities:

- Need in Africa to engage with the LPI process and support the AU - commitment of at least 30% of registered land rights going to women.
- Kilimanjaro Initiative at national and continental level to as a way civil society can create a demand for WLR. It is not just activism to demand, but can help move the agenda forward.
- Need to get this on governments agenda. Engage national ministries of planning as well as of land, ministries of housing and of gender. Engage with local authorities that often don't know about the SDGs and provisions on women's land. Need to analyse in each country; who has authority to make change at national level and map their power of influence.
- CSOs and academic institutions have a clear role to play. We should engage with key academic institutions in each country to bring in research and challenge its implementation.
- There are national women's committees and movements (e.g. in Egypt, Cameroon, national committee on women), we need to engage with to encourage them to take up WLR issues.
- Take a bottom-up approach with localization of strategies around SDGs implementation and women's land rights to make them practical.

#### Group 2 - Ways of working for coordinated learning and advocacy.

- UN Women have a small project funded by the Finish Government implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. The Finnish volunteer based in Addis Ababa (Sami Frestadius) may be able to play a role in supporting some of activities we are discussing in consultation with selected advocacy committee and GLI/GLTN.

- Platform called empowerwomen.org, facilitated by UN Women has a rural page and want a land page. Would be good to have a structured online platform to coordinate among people involved with WLR, this initiative, however, can be linked with other existing platform for value addition.
- Need to develop contacts and networks in Arab states as Civil Society is not as strong there. World Bank and GLTN/UN-Habitat is planning a Middle East conference on land issues around November 2017 [later moved to February 2018]. This is an opportunity to reach out on WLR in the region. Victoria will share more information. The ILC also has regional forums. It would be good to share the information on these various regional events.
- We need an email list to disseminate information. There is the Oxfam administered WLR email list, but we may need a more specific list for a community of practice on WLR in SDGs. GLII will add participants to the mailing list to enable them access updates and information on land monitoring.
- Use online opportunities to bring together and share information, including developing and continuing to update a collaborative calendar of conferences and events that can be influencing and sharing moments. This should go beyond the land sector to reach a broader audience. GLTN can have (or has?) a virtual calendar. The Land Portal jointly with GLTN is also creating an online space focussed on SDGs and land, where updates on upcoming events will also be profiled.
- In Latin America there is a platform for the Solid Ground Campaign led by Habitat for Humanity as part of the Urban work of GLTN. This platform supports online dialogues on urban tenure and land conflicts. Habitat for Humanity is also setting up a grassroots women support platform that is trying to use more audio-visual material.
- There are plans for a Kilimanjaro initiative 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary event around October, more information to be provided by the organisers
- Elevate conversations on WLR to a global campaign initiative, addressing the heterogeneity of women land rights issues in various contexts, using multi-stakeholders approaches linking local and global initiatives.
- For coordination of advocacy at a global level, will need a small group to take a lead, such as developing key messages, common language, identify the countries where we need to advocate and develop a plan. Suggesting this involves ILC, Landesa, GLII, HC, UN Women, RRI and Oxfam (it should not be all men).
- Make sure we are advocating to all groups and at all levels (Land agencies, women's groups, CS, grassroots level, private sector, national governments). Need to bring the SDGs message to land groups, many of which have not made the land SDG link yet. Need to bring same message to private sector groups, Oxfam has engagement with them, can call on corporations to play a role.
- There are also industry and professional associations, such as an association of French investors in Africa, that could be good entry points for more private sector engagement on land tenure and women's land rights.
- Need to be careful with messaging taking into account sensitivities and entry points in each context. Also adapting messages to regional levels to cross-fertilize ideas within regions.
- The Global Donor Working Group is important. IFAD is taking over the full Chair soon. They have had a lot of discussion on 1.4.2, but less on the gender equality ones under Goal 5. GLII supports to custodians efforts on land indicators in the SDGs and provides GDWGL with updates on these indicators.

### Group 3: Technical and financial support needs:

- Support is needed for advocacy at national level. Political will is complicated by competing demands, such as on poverty and climate change and other national priorities, so we need to link WLR to these other national priorities. We need to send clear and simple messages on why this is important.
- Generating that political will and agenda setting requires collaboration between CSOs and other allies in the land sector, finance and private sector and donor community.

- Assistance to ensure that data collection is done correctly including sampling for self-reporting and at the same time that it is customized to national contexts will be required. Need to ensure that implementers mainly the NSOs, data agencies and our partners can address these issues to customise correctly making sure that all are included – ‘no one left behind’ - for example looking out for informal settlements and vulnerable groups that could be left out during data collection or selection of enumeration areas for surveys or censuses by NSOs.
- Need good practice on how to involve women in surveys and land administration in different contexts. Surveys currently too often involve more men, we need messaging, methodology and technical support to meaningfully involve women, and capture data on household and community dynamics that affect women.
- Once there is data collected there is a need to work with countries on the data analysis and working with governments and other stakeholders to engage further on how the data is used, how lessons can be applied to changes and action to improve WLR.

## Roadmap for actions to securing women’s land rights in the SDGs

### Break Out Session 2:

1. Key messages from this EGM on what is needed for advancing women’s land rights in the SDGs and SDG indicators and their monitoring;
2. HLPF tactics and plans (speaker for the indigenous space. Major groups. Schedule of opportunities. Regular meetings)
3. Tactics and plans for how we can influence within our organizations when we go back. Support needed for that.
4. Target high level policy spaces and learning events including WB conference, Commission on the Status of Women.

### **Group reports**

#### Group 1 – Key messages.

The group presented a draft statement of key messages from the EGM. Participants added their suggestions for amendments. The final outcome is attached as Annex 2 below. They also proposed Marc of Oxfam, Katia of Landesa, Luca of ILC, Mino of Huairou Commission, Venge of UN Women, Solange of RRI, and Everlyne of GLII-GLTN as the coordinating team.

#### Group 2 – HLPF Tactics and Plans

- The HLPF runs from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>. The discussions in the first week are an opportunity to building and promote the messaging, engaging one to one with government delegations and working with Major Groups (MG) and others to get WLR questions and messaging into sessions.
- There will be a side-event on Monday, 1:15 – 2:30 in Conference Room 4, convened by GLII/GLTN-UN Habitat and WB in collaboration with GDWGL, where we can have a speaker to share the outcomes of this EGM (Marc was selected to do this). [The session report can be found here.](#)
- We need to build rapport with UN DESA and the MGs where we have allies, such as the Indigenous Peoples MG, Women’s Rights MG and NGO MG.
- Share the key messages from the EGM in writing and directly with people, including focus issues, such as the need for accommodating a range of tenure options and ensuring surveys involve self-reporting to pick up gender disaggregated data.
- Some of us will join country delegations giving them an opportunity to influence within and outside those delegations.
- Create a WhatsApp group for all of us to coordinate and share during HLPF.

### Group 3 – Tactics and Plans for Influencing in our organisations.

The group members shared their ideas for ways to take the WLR issue into their varied organisations. In summary, the main tactics suggested are:

- Bring the WLR message into all our organisational plans, publications, briefing papers, advocacy talking points, speeches by organisational leaders, conferences, etc...
- Capacity building and if possible the resourcing of that to inform, equip and excite colleagues about the potential and value of advancing WLR and using the SDG process. Translate information and training materials including the GLII working paper into local languages to facilitate reach to people at local level.
- Engage with any law reforms, legal and policy reviews and development planning processes underway. Where it will strengthen the engagement, work with supportive national ministries, FAO, ILC and others that have a legitimacy on the subject and convening power to bring in different actors.
- Informing other ministries, engaging those who should be more interested, such as gender and development ministries. Convene dialogues and identify champions in and outside ministries to support.
- Develop capacity of grassroots women, working with community champions, to gather data and be able to assist or advocate to the state based on the data gathered. Need to grow a bottom-up movement led by women asserting their land rights and engaging all parts and levels of the state.
- Show governments and other actors that it is possible with examples of good practice and the outcomes.
- Recommendation to custodian agencies; Mobilise resources for capacity development of NSOs, engagement with more stakeholders and for on the ground organizations and women's groups to be involved in validating and complimenting the official data.
- Go beyond national activities to carry out regional consultations, training and advocacy impacting more governments and having champion governments influencing others.
- Create a data base and calendar of what is going on globally to support learning from the many initiatives and joint actions. There are many regional and other forums (e.g. ILC forums) to link to.

### Concluding Reflections

#### Esther, Groots Kenya.

I feel privileged to be here, observed the positive energy. The meeting confirms that WLR are still on the agenda and there are agencies and individuals who are committed and believe that WLR are important. Thanks to the team that put this event together.

We have made progress, but there is still work to be done to actualise WLR and we need each other to do this. No one agency or organisation can do it. Listening to the different participants, we were not trying to say who is better, we have pulled together. There is still a need for more clarity on the actual outcomes we want to communicate out there and what kind of methodologies we are going to argue for out there. For some of us in women's organizations we are strongly for women's leadership.

We can never have a better opportunity to advance WLR, we cannot miss this opportunity and we must take advantage of the momentum internationally and in Africa. Our governments in Africa have opened their doors, for example Kenya is open to anyone who can help with methodologies and with data.

I hope that GLTN is committed to support and will still be our ally in supporting the community voices; we need to ensure resources go not only to collecting data, but to transforming women's lives.

Venge, UN Women.

Thank you so much for all the contributions that have been made, we have learnt a lot and we hope our participation as UN Women has helped to convey to you some of the messages and work we are doing.

A takeaway is that while we continue measuring indicators for women's rights to land, there is a great relevance of qualitative data that should contribute to and be part of the data collection.

The EGM has helped to clarify the roles of various duty bearers and their responsibility to make the data available. It is very important to share and give people access to land related information.

UN Women will continue to champion and consolidate Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the land sector and we stand ready at the global level to support GLTN and its activities. We do, however, need to debate further what gender equality really means, we will establish a working group on this.

Marc, Oxfam.

The diversity of this group is the value and strength of the group, with people from a wide variety of organisations, but all committed to advancing WLR. In this room we are all advocates for WLR.

I can see the transformatory potential of being pragmatic. We need to keep our dreams of larger social transformation while, with due consideration to the realities, working to make the most of the change opportunity that the SDGs do offer. We have to do the best we can with current data and data gathering capacity and approaches, while also working for a longer-term transformation of data gathering methods. Let us be ready for the further change opportunities that will come in developing the post 2030 agenda.

There is a tension between SDGs with their narrow set of indicators compared to what we all know are the larger and more complex gender issues and requirements to advance WLR. Let us, therefore, make the most of the current SDG process and also work together on the much wider WLR agenda.

Oumar : GLTN

We have made great progress on this important issue. In March we were nowhere in this process, but now we have a direction. The harmonisation of the methodologies across the indicators is very important and this EGM has started to address that. As GLTN we remain committed to this process, to working with all of you, and to ensuring WLR are addressed effectively in the SDG monitoring.

Thank you all for your participation.

# *Annexes*

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## Annex 1. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BBS	- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
CA	- Custodian Agencies. They are selected in UN system to be responsible for particular Goals.
CEDAW	- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women.
CFS	- World Committee on Food Security.
CS	- Civil Society
CSO	- Civil Society Organisation
ECOSOC	- Economic and Social Council of the UN
EDGE	- Evidence and Data for Gender Equality
EGM	- Expert Group Meeting
FAO	- Food and Agriculture Organisation
F&G	- Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa
GLII	- Global Land Indicators Initiative, housed within GLTN
GLTN	- Global Land Tool Network housed in UN Habitat
HH	- Household
HLPF	- High Level Political Forum of the UN convened under ECOSOC
IAEG	- Inter Agency Expert Group, structures of the UN
IFPRI	- International Food Policy Research Institute
ILC	- International Land Coalition
LPI	- Land Policy Initiative. It is an initiative of AUC, UNECA and AfDB
MDG	- Millennium Development Goals
MELA	- Monitoring and Evaluation of Land in Africa
MCC	- Millennium Challenge Corporation
MICS	- Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MS	- Member States of the UN (i.e. countries)
NGO	- Non-Government Organisation
NHS	- National Household Surveys
NSO	- National Statistical Organisation. The agencies responsible for statistics gathering in countries
RRI	- Rights and Resources Initiative.
SDGs	- Sustainable Development Goals, also called 2030 Agenda
TOC	- Theory of Change
UN	- United Nations
UN DESA	- UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs
UNFCCC COP	- UN Frame Work Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties
UNSC	- UN Statistical Commission
VGGT	- Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security
WB	- World Bank Group
WILDAF	- Women in Law and Development in Africa
WLR	- Women's Land Rights

## Annex 2. : Key Messages and Recommendations from the Expert Group Meeting on Women Land Rights, held in New York on the 8th and 9th July 2017, to the 2017 High Level Political Forum.

We are a diverse group, women and men, from all regions of the world who came together in this EGM convened by Global Land Indicators Initiative, UN Habitat, Oxfam, Landesa and UN Women. We are from governments including national statistical organizations and land agencies, multi-lateral agencies, civil society organizations, including women's organizations and groups that met on July 8 – 9, 2017 to discuss women's land rights in the context of the SDGs. We note with high importance the much needed transformation required at local and national levels to create gender equitable land access and secure rights, as well as women's involvement in decision making about their land and related resources as a basis for more equitable societies and to eradicate poverty.

We strongly affirm and support UN member states' commitments in the 2030 Agenda which offer an unprecedented global opportunity to strengthen land rights for all. The 2030 Agenda places land rights at the core of global development priorities, recognizing its foundational link to eradicating poverty (Goal 1), ensuring food and nutrition security (Goal 2), promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (Goal 5), sustainable cities (Goal 11) and life on land (Goal 15).

Secure land rights also contribute to achieving other SDG goals, including peace and security. We recognize the provision of land related SDG targets and explicit land indicators in the SDGs for measuring progress on women's land rights. We affirm and support the development of globally comparable and nationally applicable methodology to generate primary and sex-disaggregated data to assess and track progress on women's land rights.

We strongly support efforts to ensure land governance reforms that leave no one behind as well as policies and programs that respect, secure and protect all tenure rights to land and other natural resources for all women, including women at all stages of their life cycle, with different status in their households or communities, women who are small-scale producers, pastoralists, or fishers, indigenous women, and women who live in areas affected by conflict or have been displaced.

We support the full implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security which enshrines the principles of gender equality and recognition of the continuum of land rights.

We support the efforts of the custodian agencies in developing and refining a global methodology for monitoring progress of all land related indicators in the SDGs including 1.4.2, 5.a.1 and 5.a.2 addressing women's land rights. We affirm the importance to secure land indicators in the SDGs monitoring framework and the need for country capacity strengthening for National Statistical Offices, CSOs and other stakeholders in data collection and reporting on these indicators.

### **We therefore, call on all UN Member States to:**

Urgently and ambitiously prioritise and support actions that monitor progress on women's secure land rights as a means to fight poverty, gender and income inequalities.

Raise political attention and provide the technical and financial support needed at country level to ensure that the SDG indicators on secure tenure rights (1.4.2., 5.a.1 and 5.a.2), and other land related indicators promote the people-centred land governance.

Mobilize support for the adoption of the proposed methodologies for monitoring indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.2 at the 6th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG) in October, reclassifying these indicators from Tier III to Tier II and enabling immediate country data collection and reporting of these indicators.

Support national strategies for monitoring land tenure and other natural resources as well capacity development initiatives that can foster the implementation, monitoring and reporting of progress on women's land rights at global scale.

Foster closer collaboration of member states, CSOs and other stakeholders in the review of progress made in monitoring women's land rights and other land indicators.

We acknowledge the importance of securing tenure rights for women as a means to contribute to achieving SDGs 1, 2, 5, 11 and 15 among others. We reaffirm the shared aspiration of Agenda2030 of leaving no one behind with full recognition that women are not a homogenous group and that their diversity of needs must be recognized and protected. The cost of not securing women's tenure rights to land and not having the data to diagnose and monitor progress made in the context of the SDGs, will be a missed opportunity likely to be far more costly as we will not be able to eradicate poverty and empower women and girls.

Annex 3 : Attendance List EGM on Securing Women's Land Rights in the SDG's. 8 - 9 July 2017

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