

Land in Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda and Updates on the Global Land Indicators Initiative

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For the first time, land is explicitly recognized in the global Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 as a resource, factor of production and a commodity for which poverty and inequality can be fought in rural and urban areas. There is no doubt that secure tenure rights to land and property is strongly linked to peace and security; social cohesion, conservation of natural resources and mitigation of the negative impact of climate change. Effective national, regional and global land monitoring is central to ensuring that changes in land governance result in improved conditions and sustainable development opportunities for all especially for women, indigenous and territorial communities, and those living in extreme poverty in rural and urban areas.

Agenda 2030 makes it possible for countries to contribute to global scale land governance

monitoring of the proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure; capturing ownership of agricultural land and security of tenure in urban areas including housing rights. The land tenure security indicator was proposed by Global Land Indicator Initiative (GLII) Partners, as facilitated by the UN-Habitat's Global Land Tool Network, and included in SDGs. This indicator captures the complexity in monitoring tenure rights to land by recognizing the varying bundle of rights and entitlements for documented and perceived land tenure rights, recognizing rights for men and women, and gives a legal recognition for all tenure types. Further, an indicator for gender equality in land is included under SDG 5 to foster achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women



and girls; and Goal 11 encompasses indicators on secure housing rights in urban areas, also linked and promoted in the New Urban Agenda adopted by UN Member States in October, 2016. A summary of land targets and indicators in the SDGs are as shown below:

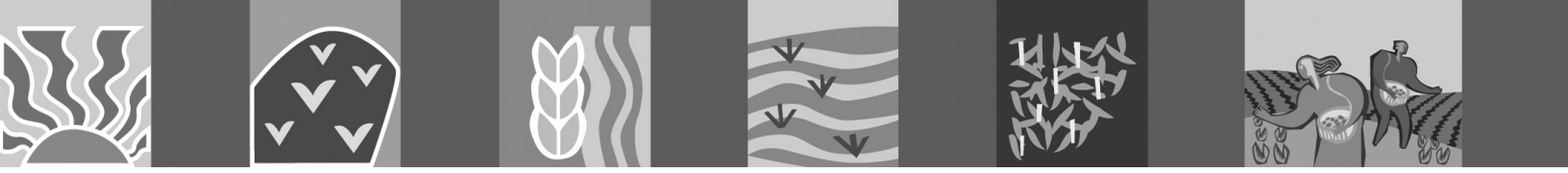
Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Target 1.4. By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

Indicator 1.4.2. Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.a. Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.



Indicator 5.a.1. (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) Share of women among owners or rights bearers of agricultural land, type of tenure Indicator

Indicator 5.a.2. Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Target 11.1. By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

Indicator: 11.1.1. Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

Target 11.3. By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human

settlement planning and management in all countries.

Indicator 11.3.1. Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate

Target 11.7. By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Indicator 11.7.1. Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Inclusion of land in the SDGs means increased opportunities for progressive monitoring of tenure security as an outcome of application of regional and global frameworks including the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forest and Fisheries (VGGT, 2012) and the New Urban Agenda.

Therefore, it is important for countries and regions to adopt a coherent strategy on a single monitoring and evaluation framework, accommodating both regional and global development agendas including Agenda 2030 and New Urban Agenda. A common reporting architecture is paramount to enable production of a single periodic performance report for the effective and coordinated implementation; linking country and region to land governance monitoring and reporting processes at global level.

The adoption of Agenda 2030 and its SDGs in September 2015 has increased attention of the global land community on the need for



harmonized approaches and statistical capacity development for countries to generate land data, monitor and report on land indicators under in SDGs 1, 5 and 11; and in the recently adopted 20 years New Urban Agenda. It is evident that Agenda 2030 presents greater opportunity to complement and support data generation and reporting on the New Urban Agenda and the VGGTs, but also presents tremendous challenges in coordination and production of official statistics mainly in new statistical areas like land.

Importance of citizen generated land data by CSOs and other agencies are increasingly gaining recognition. Data gaps therefore, exist in a number of sectors including land.

In many developing countries land data are still manually operated and inaccurately recorded while efforts to put together efficient land information systems have been hampered by among other factors lack of adequate resources, limited uptake of modern data technologies and lack of political goodwill to steer the process. Where data is available, in most cases it is limited to small range of tenure rights with the prevailing of administrative data, not disaggregated by gender and with limited geographical coverage in rural and urban areas.

There is lack of national, regional and globally harmonized methodologies and tools for land data collection and reporting including data on perception of tenure security rights. The need to establish a comprehensive land data system to inform policy and to track progress on land governance and tenure security remains a challenge and has seen various regions call for data revolution to drive social, economic and structural transformation and to make it easier to track countries' progress towards meeting national, regional and globally agreed development

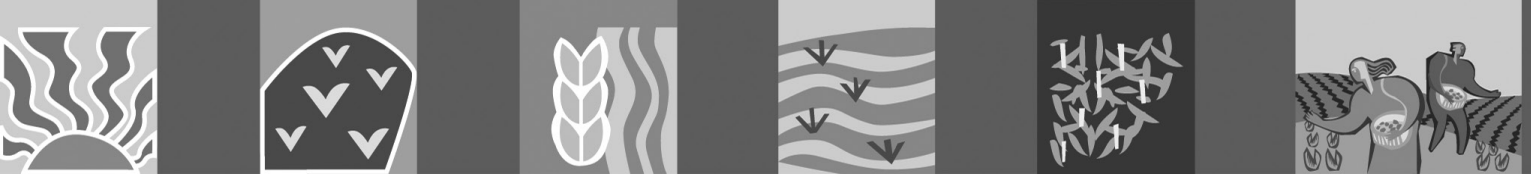
agenda, with a view to leave no one behind. The opportunity to strengthen countries and regional capacity in land governance monitoring lies in the development of robust national statistical systems. Agenda 2030 acknowledges that National Statistical Offices have long been the backbone of data production and management, producing official statistics and supporting data activities to create accurate and timely data for decision- making.

The CSOs, other regional and global data agencies have also taken up the initiative to generate land data including global perception surveys under pilot by PRIndex among others. It is therefore, a combination of global and national reporting on land data and statistics, together with participatory and stakeholder dialogue that will help catalyse action at various levels that link country to regional and global efforts to strengthen land governance monitoring and improve tenure security for all.

Land Governance Monitoring and Global Initiatives

UN member States have committed to the implementation of the goals within a timeframe of 15 years, endorsing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its Resolution 70/1.

In its Decision 47/101, which addressed the report of the Inter- agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), the UN Statistical Commission as a practical starting point agreed with the proposed global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Agenda 2030 emphasizes that it has been accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities,



capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

In August 2014, the Secretary-General established the Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development to provide advice on the ways to close the data gaps and strengthen national statistical capacities. In its report, the Advisory Group emphasized that data is a crucial pillar for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, as it is the basis for evidence-based decision-making and accountability.

Land in the New Urban Agenda

UN-Habitat and the Global Land Tool Network are very proud to celebrate the long awaited adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the recently concluded October 2016 Habitat III Conference that brought together 30,000 participants, including 10,000 international participants from 167 countries to Quito, Ecuador. The New Urban Agenda gives critical guidance for implementation

and great partnership opportunities for effective and sustainable land governance interventions for the next 20 years.

The role of land is very well captured in the New Urban Agenda (NUA), with its social, ecological and economic functions well-articulated in the adopted document.

The NUA calls for securing land and property rights for all, with great emphasis on improving access to land and natural resources by women, youth and vulnerable groups. The document recognizes the plurality of tenure types and advocates for the development of approaches that are fit-for-purpose, age, gender and environment responsive that acknowledge the continuum of land and property rights framework. It also seeks to prevent arbitrary forced evictions, promote affordable serviced land, promote access to public property and land, and recognize the importance of responsive land policies.

In several instances, the Agenda calls for the sustainable use and management of land and natural resources. For environmental sustainability, the NUA promotes sustainable land use by committing to actions that will prevent unnecessary land use changes and the loss of productive land as well as fragile and important ecosystems. The document also calls for stronger rural- urban linkages that promote the balance between the social, economic and ecological functions of land.

In terms of financial sustainability and shared economic prosperity, the document commits to sound and transparent systems of financial transfers from national government to sub-national and local governments. It calls for sharing the benefits of the increase in land and property values generated as a result of urban development



projects and investments and it advocates for the adoption of land-based revenue and financing tools and the effective functioning of land and property markets that result in sustainable land use and consumption while promoting the well-being of the poor, women and vulnerable groups.

The NUA also recognizes the need for strong, inclusive management frameworks, accountable institutions and more responsive and fit-for-purpose land administration and management solutions if the above commitments are to be effective and sustainable.

During the Special Session on Urban Land in Quito, as organized by UN-Habitat and OHCHR, some potential gaps were identified. For example, it has been recognized that the means of implementation is not clear or inadequate in terms of funding arrangements, leadership in terms of implementation, specific roles and responsibilities, the lack of mention of “grassroots” while the spirit of civic engagement and bottom-up approach is clear and the essential elements in terms of monitoring and evaluation.

There might be also a problem in terms of the term “arbitrary forced evictions”. It was also emphasized to strengthen the rural-urban linkages and the connection between the SDGs and NUA. As a way forward, it has been reiterated the need for partnerships at all levels, the need for more innovative and affordable solutions and the need for a holistic and bottom-up approach for implementation process.

The Global Land Indicator Initiative and Updates

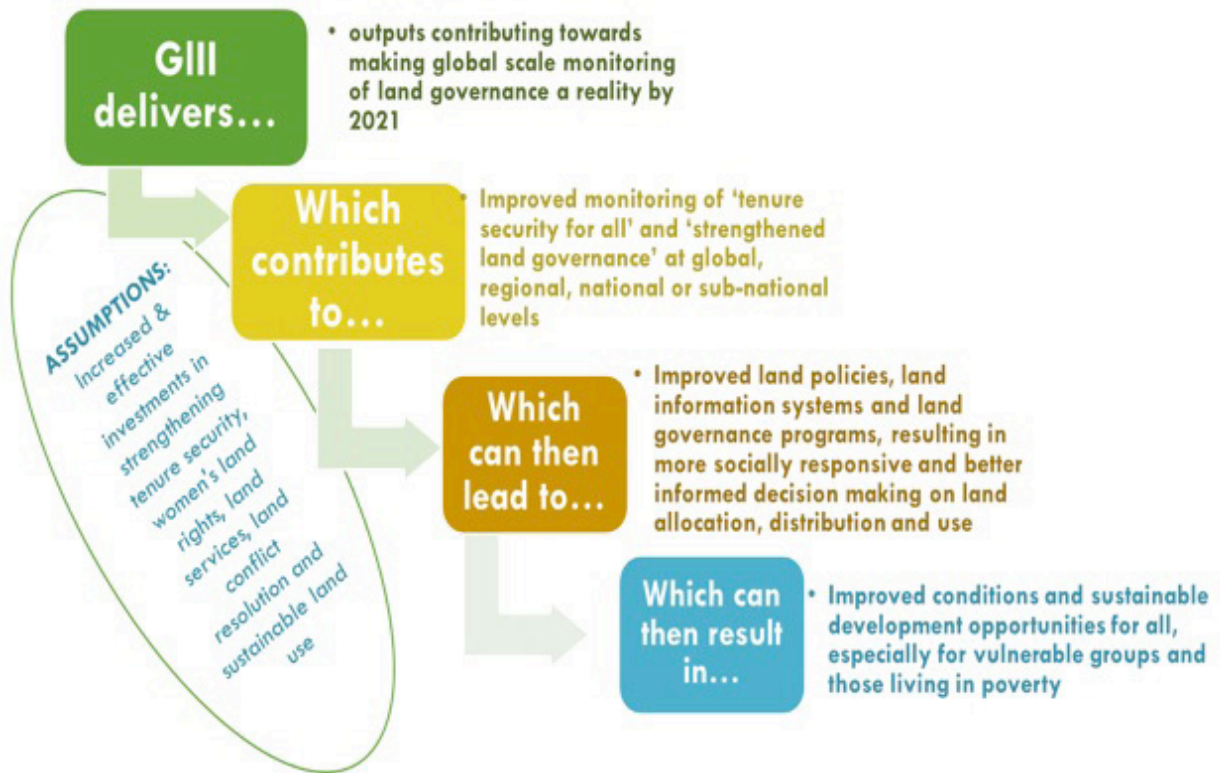
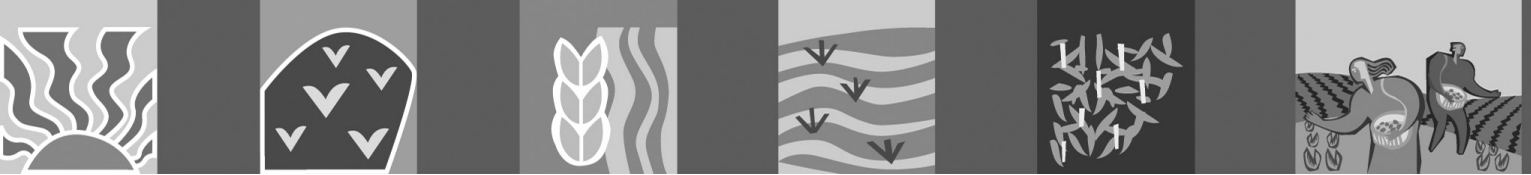
The need to strengthen global land governance monitoring and impact measurement inspired a strategic partnership between UN Habitat, World Bank and Millennium Challenge Cooperation; the

agencies that established the Global Land Indicator Initiative (GLII) in 2012. GLII is a collaborative and inclusive process for the development of the global land indicators.

This platform has now grown to include over 50 institutions around the world ranging from UN Agencies, Inter-governmental Organizations, and International Nongovernmental organizations, Multilateral Agencies, Statistical Agencies, Farmer Organizations and the Academia. The Land Policy Initiative, UNECA, UN Sustainable Development Solution Network and the Global Donor Working Group on Land are strategic partners and supporters of this initiative.

Since its inception, GLII has realized several achievements including:

- High level advocacy and influencing that saw the inclusion of a tenure security indicator in SDGs 1 with support from GLWGL, UN SDSN, UNDP; CSOs including Oxfam and Landesa among other partners;
- Developed and validated a set of 15 global land indicators that go beyond the provisions of land in the SDGs – underscoring land tenure security, land and conflict, land administration services, sustainable land use management;
- Developed and piloted nationally applicable and globally comparable methodology and tools for data collection on tenure security, with more pilots underway in Africa; and,
- Developed a training curriculum for producers and users of methodology for data collection and reporting on land indicators. The above are technical documents currently being used as reference to inform the development of metadata for land indicator on tenure security; capacity assessment and strategies development to strengthen national statistical



agencies capacity for data generation and reporting.

UN Habitat and the World Bank are co-custodian for indicator 1.4.2. FAO is custodian agency for indicator 5.a.1 and 5.a.2; while UN Habitat is the custodian agency for indicators under Goal 11. As custodian agencies, they are responsible for providing technical leadership in the development of metadata and methodology for these indicators and facilitating country capacity development for data collection and reporting. Metadata for these indicators are still under development and progress can be viewed at www.iaeg-sdgs.

The Role of the National Statistical Offices and Capacity in Land Monitoring Adoption Agenda 2030 has created new data demand for most statistical agencies at the country level. National Statistical Offices are, therefore, challenged to absorb the new data demands which have

been placed upon them if they are to monitor and account for progress against sustainable development goals. The requirement for reporting on global land indicators in the SDGs is an opportunity to strengthen country-level data generation systems. The reporting process could generate incentives to start addressing issues in the land sector with respect to service delivery by linking global reporting on land with country-level open data policy and country demand for accountability and transparency.

Land governance can further be strengthened by information and monitoring driven approach for change, as land institutions are a mechanism to make reliable and regularly updated land and property information public on a routine basis. This would also improve the availability of administrative data, spatial data and survey data required for land governance monitoring.



GLII Way Forward

As global land community fast track the implementation of the SDGs and NUA, there is greater hope, aspiration and preparedness than never before to achieve global scale land governance monitoring. This aspirations is further inspired to ensure over 1.5 billion people believed to be living on land under indigenous, territorial and customary land governance system with no official documentation have their perceived tenure rights legally recognized. There is more commitment at national, regional and global fronts to secure women's land rights, believed to often have weaker land rights compared to their male counterparts.

The land community is keen to seize the opportunity presented by the SDGs and the NUA to security tenure rights for all; and facilitate transparency and accountability in land governance policies and systems. GLII partners are keen to take the discourse much higher, to ensure full implementation of the 15 global land indicators; taking complex relationship and linkages between land, conflict, access to administration services, and land use management. Strategic partnership of governments and land actors including CSOs, private sector and multilateral agencies is critical to achieve success. ■