

management policies must be redirected towards tenure security, poverty, and vulnerability reduction instead of compensation, resettlement, and relief response.

The **plenary discussion** raised the challenge for defining the policy agenda on climate change and capacitating GLTN Partners in advocating such agenda. This can facilitate in organizing the Network members to prepare for climate change discourses. On the other hand, early warning land tools to prepare communities and increase resilience to loss and damages should be further developed and promoted. Such tools should to the extent possible build on indigenous knowledge and practices. The Tenure-Responsive Land Use Planning (TR-LUP) can be retrofitted and can be an added protection of communities against the negative impact of climate change.

The plenary discussion also helped in conveying the visible and invisible losses borne by grassroots women to climate policy and financial institutions, while looking at the challenges and gaps they are facing in coping with crisis, and identify the practical solutions that work best in ensuring communities can anticipate, respond to, and recover from shocks.

Rafic Khouri concluded that GLTN Partners should enhance their knowledge of the climate change policies and tools, lobby about land management challenges as a key issue for these policies — at governmental and non-governmental levels, using for that purpose GLTN arguments, tools, and experiences. Greater support for adaptation initiatives, including social protection, should be prioritized to enhance communities' preparedness and response capabilities to natural disasters.

Where do we go from here? Towards a new social contract for the World Social Summit, Summit for the Future, and World Urban Forum

This session focused on the discussion draft of the "*The Quezon City Framework for Developing a Women-Led New Social Contract to Enhance Land Rights and Climate Justice.*"

Siraj Sait (UEL) introduced the structure, form, and agenda of the draft NSC, and the need for a framework that would allow local partners and stakeholders globally to engage with the development of their social contracts to identify priorities,

challenges, and opportunities for land rights and climate change. The Quezon City Framework was recognized as being an innovative and action-oriented document that would operationalize learnings from previous discussions on the NSC as well as case studies, best practices, research, and experiences of diverse stakeholders presented during the EGM, building on progress through the EGM in London and conference in Dhaka, and the special session at the UN-Habitat Assembly.

The discussion of the working draft Quezon City Framework was then presented and reviewed by participants. The **plenary discussion** addressed the significance of the Quezon City Framework, with emphasis on the language, purpose, content, tools, principles, and other dimensions of the draft. Following the discussion, the Quezon City Framework was unanimously adopted by EGM participants. A second draft of the Quezon City Framework was circulated to the participants after the EGM for specific inputs. The final version is included in this Summary Report (see box).

The Quezon City Framework for Developing a Women-Led New Social Contract to Enhance Land Rights and Climate Justice

The following framework was developed at a two-day multi-stakeholder expert group meeting on “Transforming land rights and climate justice through a women-led renegotiated new social contract” on 29th February and 1st March 2024 in Quezon City, the Philippines. The meeting was attended by representatives of civil society, NGO coalitions, grassroots’ women, youth rights and support groups, professionals, researchers, urban development representatives, human rights advocates, and intergovernmental organizations. They collectively work on housing, land and property rights, women and girls’ rights, community empowerment, urban and rural development, climate action, sustainable cities and communities, and human rights at the local, national, regional, and global level.

The Framework is based on prior conference conclusions in Africa, Asia, and Europe, existing research, case studies, ongoing multi-stakeholder initiatives, and inputs from the experience of diverse partners in championing women’s land rights and community empowerment in the context of climate change. The meeting was co-organized by the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), Huairou Commission (HC), University of East London (UEL), Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), with inputs from dozens of experts and practitioners.

Part A: Context

1. **Agenda:** As acknowledged in multiple reports, instruments, and policy documents, the current climate crisis is exacerbated by global injustices and obstacles to women’s land rights, and substantially due to the lack of land, housing and property rights of marginalized communities, women, and girls. As recognized in the UN-Habitat Assembly event on “Developing a New Social Contract” (2023), East London Consensus on Gender and Youth Land Rights (2023), and the Dhaka Declaration on “Mainstreaming land rights in the narrative of climate change” (2023): lack of secure land rights means that women and girls face extreme vulnerability due to discriminatory traditions aggravated by the impact of climate change, as they are forced to settle in areas that are fragile and disaster-prone; it inhibits their ability to recover from impacts of climatic events; it restricts their capacity to engage in climate adaptation and mitigation which protect and sustain their lives and livelihoods; it deters them from implementing sustainable land use and governance practices; it severely limits their decision-making, and investments that ensure their survival and resilience; disqualifying them from government compensation for loss and damage, extension services, and resettlement support.

2. **Purpose:** A social contract is a general agreement between diverse partners to recognize each other's rights and responsibilities with details on how to collectively achieve shared objectives and outcomes. The purpose of this framework is to bring together best practices, research, and experiences of diverse stakeholders in addressing land rights, climate justice, and connected priorities. This framework offers a generic and systemic mechanism for easy development through step-by-step arrangement, implementation, and monitoring. The framework is not prescriptive but merely provides indicative issues or actions to be considered and adapted to a specific context or objectives. The framework is intended to facilitate stakeholders' developing their own social contracts rather than using a prototype shape or form. At its ambitious best, this framework is intended to help formulate mutual rights and responsibilities, with clarified expectations and milestones.
3. **Audience:** This framework is intended for stakeholders who would like to initiate discussion and planning towards developing a new social contract suited to their needs. While there may be legal, political, and technical aspects of the final social contract, this framework provides the process and structure within which specific requirements may be incorporated. In addition to supporting the primary negotiators, in the form of a checklist, it is also intended for a wider audience for advocacy, strategy, fundraising, and monitoring.
4. **Women-led:** While this framework's main processes are general and could apply to all types of social contract, this document focuses on women-led initiatives since there is a gap. Women and girls in this document are recognized as diverse, intersectional, and multi-sectoral groups, though attention is given to grassroots women and indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) who are key actors but often ignored. Women's leadership on climate change and land rights is well-acknowledged and intrinsically important but does not exclude co-leadership by men and is not an effort to substitute or pre-select primary actors who are chosen through self-organization or their respective mandates.
5. **Standards:** This framework is not a standalone document and needs to be aligned with national policy, regional and global minimal standards, and regulations. The terminology used in this framework therefore has generalized meaning as found in other relevant instruments and policy documents.
6. **Scope:** There is no one-size-fits-all for a social contract. There could be general or specific social contracts that depend on context. It is up to the primary actors to decide on the nature and scope of their social contract and its content. These social contracts could be at the local, national, regional, or global level, and involve different types of partners and focus on particular thematic issues. Therefore, there can be a number of social contracts some of which could overlap with each other and respond to multiple aspects.

Part B: Approach

7. **Impetus:** Though social contracts have been formally and informally negotiated over time, the UN Secretary General's report, *Our Common Agenda* (2021) with its 12 commitments, including to "place women and girls at the center," and subsequent dialogues relating to the UN's New Social Contract provides the backdrop of this process, noting its diverse historical, political, and philosophical foundations. Women's land rights have been eroded by multiple, overlapping challenges including COVID-19, conflict, and climate change.
8. **Normative basis:** The UN Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, international human rights instruments and system, existing global instruments, and commitments on climate change including the Kyoto Protocol, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Agreement, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage among others reiterate the commitments of States and all stakeholders towards supporting empowerment of women and girls through equitable development and climate action. Of particular note are the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 22 and 23, UNCBD COP15 Decisions 8 and 11, UNCCD Decisions 3 and 27,

UNCCD Gender Action Plan, and UNFCCC Decisions 1, 20 and 24. In addition, national policies, indigenous knowledge, and community perspectives drive the land rights and climate justice agenda. The new social contract does not diminish existing development, climate, or human rights, but merely serves as an additional framework to support women-led initiatives in these areas.

9. **Principles:** A new social contract should be founded on shared human rights principles and values. This may include being pro-poor, gender-responsive, age-sensitive, non-discriminatory. It promotes gender equality, social justice, human dignity, cultural diversity, sustainable development, reciprocity, and solidarity. A new social contract should seek to build community trust, resilience, dialogue and participation, multi-stakeholder coordination, transparency, accountability, and ensure self-organizing, participatory co-creation, and mutual benefit for all stakeholders. The new social contract should also help develop a shared understanding and practical pathways towards ensuring the best outcomes for people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnerships. It is underpinned by health and wellbeing, universal education, safety and security, and land rights for all.
10. **Objectives:** The specific objectives of a social contract may vary but stakeholders are invited to consider the following in developing a new social contract on land rights and climate justice, emerging from the Dhaka Declaration:
 - a) Amplifying the voices of women and girls, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in decision-making processes relating to land rights and climate justice.
 - b) Ensuring that land governance, land reform, and equitable access to land, water, and natural resources are the building blocks for climate resilience.
 - c) Recognizing and protecting indigenous peoples and local communities' access to land and culture, supporting customary use, management, and governance of land and natural resources.
 - d) Addressing gender discriminatory laws, policies, and practices that hinder equal land rights for women and girls.
 - e) Ensuring full involvement of all stakeholders, particularly women and girls from communities most vulnerable to climate change in formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policy instruments for land-based climate change adaptation and mitigation.
 - f) Adopting open data principles and standards, including adhering to FAIR and CARE principles when publishing land governance and climate change data.
 - g) Developing new normative arrangement to respect, protect and enforce the land rights of displaced persons especially vulnerable women and girls.
 - h) Allocating adequate funding for grassroots women through community-informed approaches to loss and damage, protection, and compensation.
 - i) Generating an enabling environment through which women's voices including grassroots and minority women is reflected in priorities, needs, and leadership and can be effective.
 - j) The purpose of multi-stakeholder engagement should be to address gaps through the spirit of solidarity and mutual interests, particularly ensuring information flows and technical skills for full participation of women in land rights and climate justice.
 - k) To build an effective new social contract for the implementation and monitoring of continuous progress on land rights and climate justice.
11. **Defining priorities:** Priorities are to be developed by stakeholders themselves through inclusive and participatory processes as appropriate to the context and subject matter. Such priority actions form the core of the social contract, and are not merely descriptive but are linked to agreed outcomes. As the climate crisis has multiple overlapping causes, effects, and solutions, priorities should address socio-historical injustices, economic, cultural, and local context, and respect indigenous knowledge. Priorities should align with existing standards, approaches, norms, actions, and frameworks.
12. **Tools:** A new social contract needs to be supported by existing and new gender- and climate responsive land tools. These should build upon existing GLTN tools such as the Continuum of Land Rights, Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM), Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC),

Youth and Land Responsiveness Criteria (YLRC), Framework for Costing and Financing Land Administration Services (CoFLAS), and Tenure Responsive Land Use Planning (TR-LUP), and generic tools such as participatory budgeting, community mapping which need to be adapted to the specific needs and demands of climate action.

Part C: Partnerships

13. **Co-creation:** The power and effectiveness of the social contract rests on the legitimacy of the agreement through shared ownership of the framework. Therefore, the process of developing a new social contract has to be inclusive, transparent, and reflective of the authentic voices and experiences of all relevant stakeholders, especially grassroots women, girls, and marginalized communities. Co-creation of the new social contract is a pre-requisite. The social contract has to speak the language of the people, be attentive to accessible terminologies, and simplify technical/scientific jargon.
14. **Self-organizing:** The social contract should ensure effective participation and representation of the core stakeholder groups at all levels and all stages of development, implementation, and monitoring. In order to avoid tokenism, each identified stakeholder group should be given adequate space and support to find its own nominee chosen to the extent possible by the relevant constituency group through its own process and deliberations. The link between the member of the stakeholder steering committee and the broader constituencies should take place through regularized reporting and validation including critical inputs or dissent of the nominee or the governance committee. Guidelines need to be developed on stakeholder participation and engagement.
15. **Primary actors:** The definition of primary actors depends on the nature and scope of objectives and priorities set out in the new social contract. These will ideally include: (a) grassroots women; (b) civil society; (c) local and national government; (d) businesses; (e) professionals; and (f) researchers. These six categories are widely acknowledged as key players having distinctive mandates and bringing particular resources and expertise.
16. **Groupings:** Alongside primary actors are various other categories of stakeholders who should include as applicable in the social contract dialogue. These include major groups and other stakeholders are recognized as consisting of 18 groups including the nine major groups that were formalized by Agenda 21 at the Earth Summit in 1992: (i) Women; (ii) Children and Youth; (iii) Indigenous People; (iv) Non-Governmental Organizations (also known as civil society organizations); (v) Local Authorities (currently referred to as local and regional governments); (vi) Workers and Trade Unions; (vii) Business and Industry; (viii) Scientific and Technological Community (the group also includes academia and researchers); and (ix) Farmers. Nine stakeholder groups were recognized by the Habitat Agenda, adopted in 1996, at the second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and by the New Urban Agenda, adopted in 2016 at Habitat III, consisting of: (x) Foundations and Philanthropists; (xi) Parliamentarians; (xii) Professional Organizations; (xiii) Persons with Disabilities (xiv) Older Persons; (xv) Media; (xvi) Grassroots and Informal Sector Organizations; (xvii) Migrants and Refugees; and, (xviii) Volunteer Organizations. These identified groupings have been officially recognized by the UN as essential stakeholders. Other occupational groupings may be included as relevant such as organizations of farmers and small-scale producers, fisherfolk, forest users, and pastoralists.
17. **Trust:** The ethos of the multi-stakeholder consultation and involvement should be based on mutual respect, dignity, and trust. All involved stakeholders are therefore expected to conduct themselves in a manner that foster inter-dependence and solidarity, which are imperative when dealing with complex and competing perspectives, and often uneven power dynamics. Complaints about abuse of power or intimidation should be brought before the governance committee.
18. **Governance:** In order to facilitate the smooth processes from development to implementation and monitoring, a formal committee which carries out essential coordination and governance functions should be set up. The social contract should explicitly mention the criteria of membership, qualifications, role, and responsibilities of members, as well as the modalities and

meeting of the group. To ensure accountability and transparency, all reporting and meeting minutes should be made public and external participants be allowed to attend meetings where possible.

19. **Capacity:** For the success of partnerships, developing leadership and skills of all stakeholders is required, including creating spaces and opportunities for minority women and girls. Creating an enabling environment through which women's and girls' voices can effectively be heard and experiences embedded within a new social contract is imperative.

Part D: Implementation

20. **Entry-points:** The social contract should identify entry points and specific interventions for land and climate action for each partner/stakeholder at the local, national, and global level as applicable. These should be related to the objectives and aspirations of each stakeholder and practical steps to fulfil the objectives of the new social contract. These could include strategic planning, mobilizing of people/resources, fundraising, advocacy, technical inputs, data collection, and/or reporting.
21. **Reporting:** The social contract should facilitate the sharing of information within and across stakeholder groups to familiarize them with the reporting systems on climate change at the global level, including through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) reports. Access to data and information is vital to creating awareness and follow-up. Climate and land policy reforms and gender equality guarantees should be co-developed and implemented by all stakeholders.
22. **Outcomes or Processes:** A social contract should be designed so that it has tangible outcomes or processes, indicators, set roles and responsibilities. Specific times where performance is expected should be indicated. This should include short, medium, and long-term targets and objectives which are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound. Objectives should be designed at the beginning of the process of developing the new social contract and progress reviewed at regular intervals by primary actors and the governance committee. Certain objectives, such as behaviour change or structural improvements, may be long-term and not immediately tangible and their monitoring and evaluation should be considered appropriately.
23. **Duration:** A social contract can be created for a specific duration relating to defined objectives with set milestones. However, it should not be seen as simply a project document that elapses but something that is dynamic, improving and evolving, reflecting changing aspirations, knowledge, and practices of primary actors involved in the development and implementation process. These emerge connected to the thematic and substantive focus.
24. **Monitoring:** The social contract should also have a part dedicated to monitoring and evaluation. This is essential for ensuring effectiveness, transparency, accountability and learning through the social contract. The monitoring process should be based on pre-identified targets and indicators, and should be designed appropriately.
25. **Data:** The social contract has to be developed and implemented through an evidence-based approach. Where appropriate and available, there is need to access and support collection of sex and age disaggregated data, participatory mapping, and data collection process, utilize technology and innovative methods, and engaging with National Statistics Offices and agencies to enable collection of good quality and relevant data. Data collection and storage should follow open data principles and standards, including adhering to FAIR and CARE principles when publishing this data.
26. **Resourcing:** Commitments and funding through governments and multilateral institutions for addressing climate action should be distributed equitably and reach local communities and grassroots' women and girls. Community-identified priorities and resilience should be the focus in addressing loss and damage due to climate change. Access to climate funds for women and girls

should be strengthened. Additionally, ensuring effective solutions through systems such as carbon credits to compensate (or offset) emissions should be transparent and community focused. The new social contract should be fully resourced, incorporating commitments and mechanisms at the global, national, and local level.

27. **Disputes:** The social contract should ensure clear roles and responsibilities for the primary actors involved. This includes in the development phase (i.e., writing, drafting), the operationalization of the agreement, and in implementation, monitoring, and disputes. The social contract should outline what happens when one or more stakeholders contests the performance/compliance by other stakeholders. It should promote negotiation and arbitration as the preferred settlement of disputes. However, formal dispute resolution mechanisms may be adopted.
28. **Support:** The framework presents a basic outline for the complex task of developing a new social contract for varied needs. The framework needs further work, evidence, guidelines, piloting, promotion, advocacy, and mainstreaming into projects, programs, and policies. In order to provide further consultations and improvement, following the EGM in Quezon City, Philippines, individuals from the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), Huairou Commission (HC), University of East London (UEL), Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), Arab Union of Surveyors (AUS), Habitat for Humanity (HfHI), and OXFAM, will comprise a new social contract framework group (i.e., NSC framework group) and will invite others include experts and representatives from other constituencies or groupings. The NSC framework group will develop its terms of reference and work to facilitate its normative, technical, and political contributions. The Noon Centre for Equality and Diversity at the University of East London will serve as the secretariat of this group in the initial period.

Adopted in Quezon City, the Philippines, 1st March 2024

Closing Session: Recalibrating Phase IV of GLTN

Nathaniel Don Marquez (ANGOC) opened the final plenary session commenting on the achievements of the EGM in facilitating dialogue on land rights and climate change as well as emphasizing the leading role of grassroots' women's leadership in climate action. The involvement of representatives from the different GLTN clusters in this EGM demonstrates the importance of multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary approach in understanding the intersectionality of land with other development themes such as climate change. Short interventions from presenters were then invited.

Arach David James (NAMATI) commented on land rights and climate change issues in East Africa, particularly Kenya, highlighting the role of local communities in addressing climate hazards and the relevance of women's perspectives and leadership. He appreciated the initiatives taken by the GLTN Rural CSO Cluster to understand the cross-cutting dimensions of land with food security, climate change, and gender.