

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, Huairou Commission 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 whose strategic and basic needs and rights must be addressed. 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.