

6th Partners' Meeting of the Global Land Tool Network

The 6th Partners' Meeting of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) was held at the UN Gigiri Complex in Nairobi, Kenya, from 3-5 November 2015 and was attended by about 70 GLTN partners. FIG vice president Dr Diane Dumashie represented FIG as GLTN partner during this biennial event.

During a pre-conference multi-stakeholder workshop, a fit-for-purpose (FFP) Land Administration Guide was introduced and discussed. The FFP approach provides a new, innovative and pragmatic solution to land administration. The solution is directly aligned with country-specific needs, is affordable and flexible to accommodate different types of land tenure, and can be upgraded when economic opportunities or social requirements arise. The Guide provides structured guidance on building the spatial, legal and institutional frameworks in support of designing the country-specific strategies for implementing fit-for-purpose land administration.

The main goals of the 6th Partners' Meeting of GLTN were to strengthen partnership collaboration in the network and to increase the visibility of land and tenure security in the ongoing global development process. Achievements of GLTN were discussed in alignment with strategies for implementation of the network's land tools at country level.

The land and tenure security issue was placed in the context of the global development processes: the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III) and FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. The discussions revolved around the impact of these processes on the work of GLTN, identified the roles and opportunities for the



▲ Oumar Sylla, the new Land and GLTN Unit leader at UN-Habitat, addresses the 6th Partners' Meeting of GLTN. (photo: Eric Gachoka, UN-Habitat)

partners to engage in these global processes and proposed a way forward.

GLTN partners are grouped into five logical clusters: bilateral organisations, international professional bodies, international training and research institutions, multilateral organisations and rural and urban international civil societies. FIG's president Prof Dr Chryssy Potsiou was elected as representative for the 'professional bodies' cluster and will represent it in the International Advisory Board of the GLTN.

The session on the latest thinking on GLTN land tools was particularly dynamic. During an interactive market-place session, a total of 13 tools were presented in great detail with an opportunity for the partners to engage. Land tools are practical ways to solve a problem in land administration and management. It is a way to put principles, policies and legislation into effect. The term covers a wide range of methods: from a simple checklist to use when conducting a survey or a set of software and accompanying protocols to a broad set of

guidelines and approaches. The emphasis is on practicality.

Another impressive aspect of the meeting was the visit to the Mashimoni informal settlement where the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) is implemented. STDM supports residents in organising the community and helps in gathering evidence in land tenure and in the legitimacy of people-to-land relations in litigation and negotiation. Members of the community experience STDM as an alternative way of managing land information which has led to reduced conflict, for example, in cases as double or triple selling of structures.

The 6th Partners' Meeting of GLTN was concluded by Oumar Sylla, the newly appointed GLTN head, who addressed the partners and highlighted his vision for the network. ◀

More information

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