



### **FIG/UN Habitat-GLTN Joint Technical Session on Improving Women's Access to Land and Property**

Tuesday, 17 June 2014, 11:30–13:00, *Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre Room 401*

*This technical session is also supported by FAO*

The Global population growth coupled with rapid urbanization has created immense pressures on land and food security. In responding to the land management and administration challenges it is crucial to ensure inclusive and participatory approaches where all societies and nations appreciate their roles, singularly and collectively, in addressing these challenges. One of the key areas that need attention is gender equality when dealing with access to land and ownership thereof. In appreciation of the importance of gender equality by the global community, goal 3 of Millennium Development Goal is to **Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women**. However, with this benevolent intention in place, in 2011 Rural Development Institute (RDI) indicate “*Women produce 60-80% of the food in most developing countries, yet only 2% of the land is owned by women*”

Depending on the political, economic and cultural context, it is often women, and particularly poor women, who face significant barriers in obtaining land because social customs or patriarchal tenure systems prevent them from holding rights to land. As women often gain access to land through male relatives, their rights are vulnerable to breakdowns in relationships, divorce or to the changing priorities of male landowners. RDI findings are yet another indicator that globally, women face discrimination and obstacles to access land and security of tenure. In addressing this situation, there are initiatives in many countries to develop land policies that work for the poor, disadvantaged and cater for both women and men. However, these initiatives place insufficient attention to the development of methods for implementation of these gender inclusive policies and legislations. In this session participants are expected to share experiences and innovations involving initiatives to address women's access to land and property. As an example the collaboration of GLTN Partners in initiatives to address women's access to land and property, including development and piloting of gendered land tools are cited and explained.

To contextualize the discussions and enhance common understanding general definitions of key words are adopted as follows:

- **Gender** as culturally prescribed social roles and identities of men and women that are highly variable across cultures and are subject to change, as opposed to sex which is the biological difference between men and women determined at birth.
- **Land Tool** is a practical way to solve a problem in land administration and management. It is a way to put principles, policies and legislation into effect. are the converters of objectives set by legislation, policy or principles into implementable actions.
- **Gendered Tools** are modified tools that can be used in response to obstacles women face in using tools, recognizing the differential impact of a tool on women and men.

GLTN working with some of the partners such as Huairou Commission, International Federation of Surveyor, University of East London, Gender Unit of UN-Habitat and others have developed Gender Evaluation Criteria as one of the flagship land tools to enhance comprehension on gendered land tools. Gendered tools ensure inclusivity in their application where both men and women are actively involved in design, implementation and evaluation. A number of land practitioners have been trained on designing and evaluating land tools with a gender perspective. In addition gender evaluation criteria has been implemented in a number of countries thereby enhancing stakeholders' acuity to recognise inequity and/ or inclusion issues in land policies and land regulations, and to develop mitigation approaches where necessary.

It is within this context that participants are encouraged to share ideas and innovations about how to address the prevailing gender inequities on access to land and property comprehensively.

**Objectives:**

- To discuss global challenges on women's access to land and property.
- To discuss how land professionals and all land stakeholders can jointly contribute in improving women's access to land and property
- To propose actions and partnerships for Local and Regional initiatives.

**Tentative Programme**

Chair:	<i>Cyprian Selebalo</i> , Land and GLTN Unit, UN-Habitat, Kenya
Rapporteur:	<i>Robyn McCutcheon</i> , FIG Commission 1, Australia
Time	Presentation/Discussion
11:30 - 11:50	Introduction by the Chair "Land and Gender: The GLTN's Perspective and Initiatives", <i>Cyprian Selebalo</i> , Land and GLTN Unit, UN-Habitat, Kenya
11:50 - 12:00	"Women's Access to Land within the VGGT Framework", <i>Cecilie Ravn Christensen</i> , FAO, Italy
12:00 – 12:10	"Gender Justice in Land Management and Governance", <i>Dewi Kartika</i> , International Land Coalition, Indonesia
12:10 – 12:20	"Global Programme on Women's Access to Security of Tenure", <i>Lajana Manandhar</i> , Huairou Commission
12:20 – 12:30	"Women's Access to Land and the Proposed FIG Lady Professional Network", <i>Robyn McCutcheon</i> , FIG Commission 1, Australia
12:30 - 13:00	Facilitated discussion and interaction on, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender inequities – concerns, challenges and initiatives</li> <li>• Creativity and innovation to improve Women's Access to Land</li> </ul> <p>Closing Remarks</p>