

# Securing a Billion Rights: A Call to Action

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## SUMMARY

Land and property are the cornerstone of global wealth, yet only about 35 percent of land rights are formally registered, 25% of the global urban population resides in slums, and significant disparities in land ownership persist for women and Indigenous Peoples creating fundamental barriers to economic development, social equity, and environmental actions and stewardship. Drawing on four decades of experience, the World Bank Group has supported countries in developing proven solutions to address this gap, with an active portfolio of 51 operations totaling US\$2.9 billion.

These operations have yielded transformative successes. For example, the province of Punjab in Pakistan has implemented a fully digital and transparent land administration system. Similarly, a national program in Indonesia is nearing complete registration of all land parcels, Benin has modernized its registration processes, and Colombia is using a multipurpose cadaster to improve taxation and planning.

These experiences form a blueprint to scale global investments in land rights. The solution involves a concerted effort to register and digitize private, public, and communal land rights. We envision an accelerated path to securing 1 billion land rights over the next decade. This initiative, fueled by US\$8 billion in public and private investment, is projected to yield US\$100 billion in economic value, create millions of jobs, and advance critical societal and environmental goals.