



# Minutes GDWGL Meeting

## Participants

### Group Members

- **Maria Wichmann**, *BMZ*
- **Etienne Coyette**, *European Commission*
- **Ward Anseeuw**, *FAO (Chair)*
- **Chris Penrose Buckley**, *FCDO*
- **Annette Jaitner**, *GIZ*
- **Olivier Puginier**, *GIZ*
- **Anja Schwiertz**, *GIZ*
- **Michael Taylor**, *ILC*
- **Rikke Grand**, *IFAD*
- **Gemma Betsema**, *RVO*
- **Christina Blank**, *SDC*
- **Ombretta Tempra**, *UN-Habitat*
- **Robert Lewis-Lettington**, *UN-Habitat*
- **Karol Boudreaux**, *USAID*

- **Thea Hilhorst**, *World Bank*
- **Jenny Lisher**, *World Bank*
- **Mercedes Stickler**, *World Bank*
- **Mika Torhonen**, *World Bank*

### GDPRD Secretariat

- **Maurizio Navarra**
- **Michelle Tang**
- **Monique Amar**
- **Sierra Berardelli**
- **Alessandro Cordova**
- **Carlotta Cramer**

## Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Ward/FAO
2.	Conference and Event Updates	Mercedes/World Bank Maurizio/GDPRD Ombretta/UN-Habitat Michael/ILC Ward/FAO
3.	Member Updates	All
5.	AOB and Closing	Ward/FAO

# Key Highlights/Issues

## 1. Welcome & Introduction

## 2. Conference and Event Updates

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To present and discuss engagement with select upcoming international events relevant to the group.

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The [World Bank Land Conference](#) will take place on May 5-8, 2025, under the theme “Securing Land Tenure and Access for Climate Action: *Moving from Awareness to Action*”. Proposals for contributions (i.e., sessions and papers) are open until 15 November. Topics focused on research, gender and youth will be strongly favored.
  - New developments include the addition of a daily plenary session and a new session on land administration best practices. As usual, there will be research sessions, regional outreach workshops and thematic events.
  - Expressions of interest to attend the event are due by 15 December 2024 and are subject to a stratified lottery to ensure equal representation across stakeholder types (government, civil society, academia, research, and private sector) and regions, with registration guaranteed for presenters, sponsors and exhibitors. Maximum numbers of attendees are five per official country delegations and three per agency.
  - It is possible to participate by reserving an Expo booth in the central atrium.
  - Following a review of shortlisted candidates by the Advisory Group, proposal acceptances are sent out on December 20th. Rejection notices will be sent after the holidays (January 2025).
  - The deadline to submit EOIs for registration has been extended from December 15th to January 15th.
  - Following this event, the next edition of the World Bank Land Conference will be in 2027 and will proceed on a bi-annual basis. **[World Bank]**
- The Annual General Assembly of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, “*Financing Food Systems Transformation and Rural Revitalization*”, will take place on 26-27 November. The AGA will focus on how to best use ODA catalytically, reforming public financing and policies, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and climate vertical funds. The agenda, including speakers list, is [available online](#). Members are encouraged to [register to participate](#).
  - Participants will receive an AGA background brief in advance, summarizing the current state of financing food systems. The brief explores innovative financing models that hold promise for transforming rural areas and food systems, including blended finance impact bonds, green and climate bonds, and multi donor trust funds. Following the AGA discussions, key takeaways will be incorporated in the report, alongside concrete recommendations to guide international stakeholders and donors in maximizing impact towards food security and nutrition. **[Maurizio Navarra]**
  - The AGA session organized by the GDWGL, “*Reaching Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities through Enhanced Finance*” will focus on how to make financing more inclusive and accessible for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The panel will include contributions from FCDO on the Glasgow Pledge, the Christensen Fund on Phase 2 of the Glasgow Pledge, IFAD on unlocking funding for Indigenous Peoples, and REPEALAC on first-hand experiences of accessing financing, as well as discussion from Michael Taylor (ILC) and Ward Anseeuw (FAO). **[FAO]**
- The [Third Arab Land Conference](#) will be in Rabat, Morocco on 18–20 February. The theme of the

conference, “*Land Solutions for Investments, Resilience, and Innovation*”, was chosen in consultation with members for relevance to urban and rural populations, climate and conflict risks, and technological digitalization. There will be a central focus on women’s land rights, with sub-themes including climate and food security, and financing solutions.

- The deadline to submit session proposals and technical papers is 15 November.
  - Events of interest include a session on the experiences of implementing e-cadastres, a Mayoral roundtable, and a session on advances in land administration services.
  - The event forms part of the process of better incorporating land discussions in multilateral coordination initiatives in the region for strengthened collaboration and channeling member state action. The event stands to complement parallel discussions of other international land conferences, bringing global debates to the Arab region and experiences from the region to global fora. **[UN-Habitat]**
- The 2025 [Global Land Forum](#) (GLF) will be in Colombia on June 14-19, with a diverse group of participants from grassroots organizations, farmers organizations, Indigenous Peoples organizations, national and international NGOs, UN agencies and IFIs. The GLF aims to spark debate and learning around land rights build partnerships. It also serves as an opportunity to raise the profile of land and related issues at the national level in the host country, as well as globally. This year’s themes include agrarian reform, agrifood systems transformation, and the climate and biodiversity crises, with a focus on the just energy transition.
    - The event will focus on learning from experience through plenary and breakout sessions, as well as pre-event field visits to communities outside of Bogota, hosted by local and Indigenous Peoples Organizations. There will also be a senior officials’ event, focused on challenges encountered in land reform programs, which will serve to share solutions and best practices.
    - The program is aligned with the Global Land Agenda and the World Bank Conference.
    - The group is enthusiastically invited to participate, as well as members’ project partners, and can register via the [event website](#). If of interest, the GLF can facilitate space for additional events, including an informal meeting of the GDWGL. **[ILC]**
  - The [COP16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) was acknowledged as a successful event, despite not reaching full agreement on the funding. It was overwhelmingly a COP of the people, positioned not only at highest level of government, but also with civil society and local residents, putting biodiversity on the agenda for all. Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and farmers were a significant and highly visible portion of the participants.
    - The formal recognition of Indigenous and Afro-Descendant Peoples within the CBD was a significant milestone of the event, towards institutionalizing the role of these actors and the role of the land they steward.
    - The retention of the land tenure and land use indicator was a key outcome. This was introduced in Montreal but was not a headline indicator as there was no agreed methodology for tracking. This was the first item to be agreed, but Brazil requested additional work on the methodology through a co-constructive process. It is therefore still to be officially approved, though the indicator is retained.
    - UNCCD had already expressed interest in a land indicator to be included in the convention. Following the success of the land indicator at COP16 in Cali, this request has been resumed and work is underway. There will be a two-hour panel during the UNCCD COP to discuss the indicators and setup. **[FAO]**
  - [FCDO hosted an event](#) at COP29 on supporting IPLC land tenure rights, which included speeches from the Ministerial level in Brazil, bilateral contributions from Norway, participation from the Bezos Earth Fund, as well as from Indigenous leaders. The purpose was to build momentum for a second phase of the IPLC forest tenure pledge, signaling leadership and commitment.
    - The funders group has begun discussions for a second phase of the pledge. It is agreed that the work should continue, and there are discussions around expansion to

land beyond forests, as well as tracking and indicators. **[FCDO]**

#### **Q&A:**

- Is it possible for donors to donate booth sponsorship to civil society? **[USAID]**
  - Yes, booth sponsorship can be donated. **[World Bank]**
- BMZ intends to submit proposed sessions for the World Bank Land Conference. Due to the upcoming deadlines coinciding, these proposals will be in an outline format. **[BMZ]**
  - Outline proposals are warmly welcomed. **[World Bank]**
- Is there a natural thematic link between the Global Land Forum and the World Bank Land Conference? **[BMZ]**
  - There is a clear thematic link as climate and the energy transition will be a focus of the GLF, particularly the risk of large-scale dispossession within the energy transition. The GLF will be working with the World Bank, if accepted, to organize a side event on this theme in Washington. The intention is therefore to carry this through to Colombia, shifting to implementation by leveraging the position of the ILC to facilitate unique partnerships. **[ILC]**
- The Netherlands hope to have the Land at Scale exchange around a similar time. May and June will be a very crowded space; it would be good to see how this can be better valorized. Would the high-level meeting be an opportunity to engage the Embassy in Colombia? **[Netherlands]**
  - The ILC has previously collaborated with RVO on the Land at Scale program and the delegation. There are certainly opportunities to collaborate, such as through a special event, which could be discussed bilaterally. **[ILC]**
- How will the GLF connect to the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) in 2026? **[FAO]**
  - The Colombian Government has expressed interest in integrating this event into the ICARRD 2026 (ICARRD +20) process. The themes are aligned, and agrarian reform is a high priority of the Colombian Government. While ICARRD will have more of a governmental focus, there will be civil society participation. The GLF is a first step for this process. **[ILC]**

### **3. Member Updates**

#### **PURPOSE OF SECTION:**

*For Members to give short updates on their current work.*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- The [FCDO Land Facility Program](#), launched in May 2024, includes capacity building, such as for sustainable administration systems, with the goal of working closely with other donors and avoiding duplication. The program is in the initial scoping phase, identifying opportunities for further work. Group members are invited to share opportunities for collaboration in the pilot countries of Brazil, Ethiopia, Zambia and Indonesia. The program has a strong focus on political economy analysis, which has led to the establishment of an academic advisory group. **[FCDO]**
  - Germany is working on a flagship program focused on international agendas, and has small measures for country support; it appears to align with the Land Facility. **[BMZ]**
- Results for the indicator 1.4.2 are expected to be released in March, with new data reporting on 100 countries. There are ongoing discussions on legal documents, perceptions indicators, and encouraging member states to adopt Prindex. **[UN-Habitat]**
- Under the new land mechanism, USAID is supporting the development of an Indigenous Peoples-led Climate Finance Framework, in collaboration with colleagues on the Indigenous Peoples team, due to be available in the new year. Members interested in learning more are invited to reach out for more information. **[USAID]**
- LAND-at-scale projects are still running until the end of 2026. The knowledge management team

has been delivering outcomes and publications, and findings will be shared at the World Bank Land Conference and the Global Land Forum. There are ongoing discussions on organizing an LANDAC event at the end of June, but the busy agenda is being considered. **[RVO]**

- New requests to develop a large-scale land intervention have been received, notably from Nigeria and Paraguay. Recently, 15 client countries came together to develop a technical training session in Japan, representing progress in developing interventions at scale. **[World Bank]**
- FAO is receiving many requests for country technical support, such as from Benin, Nigeria, Swaziland, Burundi, and Congo-Brazzaville to support land reform programs. **[FAO]**
- The Global Land Observatory’s (GLO) technical reference group met last week on the GLO report. Out of eight chapters, three are written and two ready to submit. By the end of the year, the full draft will be ready for open consultation through the Global Land Forum (GLF), targeting the end of March for the final draft and publication at the 2025 CFS plenary. **[FAO]**

## 4. AOB & Closing

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*For members to discuss other pressing issues.*

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reflecting on the range of events and initiatives, there is clearly a significant amount of ongoing work. This is relevant for the Global Land Agenda (GLA), which aims to promote land on the global agenda and leverage the momentum from the various initiatives, messages, and events. The group is invited to reflect on how to best benefit from these events and initiatives to strengthen the outcomes. The next meeting of the GLA will likely be early 2025. **[FAO]**
- Discussions are ongoing with MCC for the Co-Chairmanship of the GDWGL; confirmation is expected by the next meeting of the group. **[FAO]**
- There is no planned GDWGL meeting at UNCCD, but an informal meeting is proposed as some members and their colleagues will be present. **[USAID, FAO]**

## Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	<a href="#">Register</a> for the 2024 AGA.	26 November	All
2.	Share invitation to the land panel at UNCCD.	Mid-November	Ward Anseeuw, FAO