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Sustainable practices from the UNECE region and beyond

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FIG — INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS (FIG)

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INVESTMENT BRIEF

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The digital transformation of land administration systems (LAS) is about responsibly moving the entire sector from a paper based, manual service mode, towards one that is fully delivered by digital technologies (Vial, 2019), ensuring no one is left behind. It brings increased activity and efficiency in land markets, improves land revenues for government, and stimulates economic growth through new data products and services. It also increases accountability, transparency, and equality for all land sector stakeholders.

Investment in LAS digital transformation is essential to meet country policy priorities (RICS, 2021). Spatial and other information on tenure rights are needed to identify policy gaps, plan actions, and enable ongoing monitoring and evaluation. Of the 14 fundamental spatial data themes identified by the United Nations Expert Group on Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) as critical for every nation (Hadley, 2018), 11 regularly fall under the mandate of land administration. Spatial and other information on tenure rights are essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), (United Nations, 2015) that increasingly drive national policy priorities.

Despite the economic, social, and environmental benefits that LAS deliver, securing sustainable funding for digital transformation is challenging (Deininger and Feder, 2009). The infrastructure can be largely invisible, taken for granted, or simply not understood by key decision-makers. To be sustainably maintained, LAS demand systematic, unified, and durable digital transformation plans, that align with each country's priorities.

This Brief presents a snapshot of *Digital transformation and land administration: sustainable practices from the UNECE region and beyond*, developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). It provides practical guidance and steps on how to develop action plans to support the digital transformation of LAS. The guidance is for higher level LAS decision-makers, leaders and practitioners. It aims to help them communicate with economists, donors, or Finance Ministries in a language they understand.