Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure: Implications for Small Island Developing States

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Unprecedented global momentum to work on tenure
The Voluntary Guidelines: International recognition

“a milestone achievement.”
José Graziano da Silva, Director General, FAO

“We encourage private investment to be carried out in a responsible manner with VG and PRAI being taken into account.”
Kazan Declaration on APEC Food Security
A true global multi-stakeholder consensus

RESEARCH AND NETWORKING
• 2000 onwards

CONSULTATIONS
• 2009 – 2010

DRAFTING
• 2011

NEGOTIATIONS
• 2011 – 2012

ENDORSEMENT by CFS
• 11 May 2012
The international framework for work on tenure

First international consensus on governance of tenure

Endorsed by CFS on 11 May 2012

Cross-sectoral approach: land, fisheries and forests

Consider all forms of tenure: Public, private, communal, customary, informal...

...to contribute to food security, sustainable development and environmental management...
The international framework for work on tenure

- COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY
- VOLUNTARY
- MULTI-STAKEHOLDER
- REFERENCE DOCUMENT
- PRINCIPLES AND INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS
- FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPING STRATEGIES, POLICIES, LEGISLATION, PROGRAMMES
Know where to find the information!
Guidance which applies to all sections

Part 1: Preliminary

Sets the direction:
- Objectives
- Nature and scope

Part 2: General Matters

Provides overall guidance:
- Guiding principles.
- Tenure rights.
- Policy, legal and organizational frameworks.
- Delivery of services.
Part 3: Legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights

- Safeguards
- Public lands, fisheries and forests
- Indigenous peoples and others with customary tenure
- Informal tenure

Part 4: Transfers and other changes to tenure rights

- Markets
- Investments
- Readjustments
- Restitution
- Redistributive reforms
- Expropriation
Part 5: Administration of tenure

- Records of tenure rights
- Valuation
- Taxation
- Regulated spatial planning
- Resolution of disputes over tenure
- Transboundary matters
Part 6: Responses to climate change and emergencies

- Climate change
- Natural disasters
- Conflicts

Part 7: Promotion, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
Putting the Voluntary Guidelines into action
Who do the Voluntary Guidelines apply to?

The **whole of society** needs to be involved because tenure of land, fisheries and forest affects everyone in some way.
Global support to implementation:
Countries and governments;
Global Donor Working Group on Land;
Coalitions (GLTN, ILC);
CSOs;
Private sector;
Academia, and;
Professionals (FIG and member associations)
FAO’s work: Partnerships
FAO’s work: Capacity development tools and approaches

Technical Guides:
FAO’s work: Capacity development tools and approaches

E-learning modules:
FAO’s work: Capacity development tools and approaches

Learning programmes:
FAO’s work: Capacity development tools and approaches

SOLA and Open Tenure software applications:
FAO’s work: Progress at country level
Providing multi-tiered support
FAO’s work: within countries

Sierra Leone
FAO’s work: across neighbouring countries

Senegal River Basin

Mekong Region
FAO’s work: lessons learnt across multiple countries

Transversal support across 18 countries: first phase 10 in sub-Saharan Africa
Voluntary Guidelines: Implications for SIDS and tenure professionals

Challenges from SAMOA, SDGs and others:

- Climate change and natural disaster risks
- Urbanization and informality
- Tenure governance

Tenure and access are cross-cutting themes in an era of increasing pressure on natural resources and access.
Voluntary Guidelines: Implications for SIDS and tenure professionals

Opportunities:

• Technological change is a key enabler (even since 2010!)
• Political will, agreement and support
• Consensus on tenure as a key cross-cutting issue
• Recognition and support for key tenure initiatives
What do you see as the key set of actions?

Thank you

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