

Engagements for Advancing the Objectives of the Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration Working Group: A Call to Action

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SUMMARY

UN-Habitat and the World Bank have supported the Fit for Purpose Land Administration (FFPLA) Working Group in the promotion and alignment of context-specific land administration practices with diverse regional needs. This paper acknowledges the commendable progress of the working group, as evidenced by the development of policy guides, implementation support mechanisms, and scholarly publications, which have significantly advanced the understanding and adoption of FFPLA principles. Additionally, the paper acknowledges the slow uptake of FFP principles within the land administration community, thereby highlighting the urgency for renewed engagement and collaborative efforts to overcome barriers and drive transformative change. The paper concentrates on two crucial aspects; Reinforcing Advocacy and Awareness, and Promoting Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing. Within the first aspect, the article highlights the pivotal role of reinforcing advocacy to expand the reach and influence of FFPLA. It dissuades the attempt to have an approach tagged as fit-for-purpose and promotes the adoption of flexible systems that can fast-track inclusive land registration and property rights. It promotes the involvement of local stakeholders in adapting and adopting approaches to aid context-specific approaches in their localities. It proposes strategies such as integrating FFPLA into international, national and local policy frameworks; leveraging existing networks and partnerships; and advocating for the inherent merits of context-specific land administration solutions in poverty reduction (SDG 1) endeavours. Under the second aspect, the paper underscores the paramount importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing in advancing progress. It accentuates the FFPLA Working Group's role in facilitating information exchange, fostering partnerships with relevant stakeholders, and establishing platforms for disseminating best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches. Active engagement from FIG member countries/associations, UN-Habitat, professionals, universities, and the geospatial industry is deemed essential for collectively contributing to the FFPLA agenda. Moreover, the paper delineates specific actions to invigorate engagements, including targeted workshops, webinars, and

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capacity-building initiatives to address knowledge gaps and cultivate a vibrant FFPLA community of practice. It further suggests the establishment of regional task forces to drive localised implementation and adaptation of FFPLA principles. These actions are envisaged as catalysts for effecting change and generating momentum within the land administration community. In conclusion, this paper urges all stakeholders to proactively participate and contribute to the FFPLA Working Group's objectives. It emphasises the imperative of collective responsibility, knowledge sharing, and continuous learning to foster transformative change in land administration practices. The envisioned outcome is a future wherein FFPLA becomes the prevailing norm, feeding into an effective land administration system for communities to aid sustainable development, poverty reduction, and enhanced land governance on a global scale.

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