

Effective Land Administration – What is the Difference Between FFP LA and do Those Two Concepts Complement Each Other?

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SUMMARY

Land administration, in general, relates people to land and informs on the ‘how’, the ‘what’, the ‘who’, the ‘when’ and the ‘where’ of land tenure, land use, land value, and land development. Land administration systems are the basis for recording the complex range of rights, restrictions and responsibilities related to people, policies and places. Contemporary global policy development is increasingly shaped through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 goals and 169 targets, is a global plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. In terms of geospatial information and its relationship to the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) plays a leading role in the development of policy frameworks for geospatial technical aspects and applications relating to the SDGs. For the first-time, policies focused on geospatial information management are being developed at the United Nations.

Within UNGGIM’s program of work sits the functions of Land Administration and management. The Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (EG-LAM) is driven in part by the need to scale up efforts in regard to tenure security for all. Subsequent to the eighth UN-GGIM session, the Expert Group considered and included all existing globally accepted concepts and approaches for effectively and efficiently documenting, recording and recognizing people to land relationships in all their forms through the initial drafting of the UN-GGIM Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA). The aim of FELA is to support tackling global tenure insecurity through accelerated and sustainable land administration activities that consider all people. Hence FELA recommends effective land administration to be fit-for-purpose, appropriate and adequate, interoperable and sustainable, flexible and inclusive, and able to accelerate efforts to document, record and recognize people to land relationships in all its forms.

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Since the launch of the joint FIG / World Bank “Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration (FFP LA)” publication in March 2014 (FIG Publication No. 60), implementations have been taking place and lessons learnt were gathered. The FFP LA approach was embraced by governments in the global south, businesses and grassroots based organisation. Future developments of FFP LA are focusing on mainstreaming and scaling up these processes. Especially in regard to advocacy and awareness raising FELA and FFP are complementary – but also in other strategic pathways the framework and the FFP LA are complementary.

This paper provides a state-of-play on the current and future activities surrounding the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) developed by the United Nations Expert Group on Land Administration and Management, an Expert Group established by the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). It explains the development and consultation process underpinning FELA; the overarching purposes for FELA; outlines the major content elements including the nine strategic pathways; and looks forward to how FELA provides utility at country level and regional levels. The aim is to raise awareness on FELA amongst the diversity of global and national land sector actors and provide clarity on the potential complementation of FFP LA in FELA. The paper investigates step by step, the potential for the Land Administration domain to be guided through an UN endorsed framework as well as the complementary relation to the FFP LA approach.

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