

Action and Advocacy for progress on SDGs – Introducing FIG’s Partnership with a Global Campaign for Women’s Land and Housing Rights

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SUMMARY

Women’s land rights (WLR) are critical to achieving several SDGs including 1.4, 5a and 2.3 – which specifically mention WLR. Beyond this, strengthening WLR and tenure security has a positive effect on a range of development goals, including poverty reduction and economic growth. Women are centrally strategic actors for reducing hunger, malnutrition, and poverty as they play a central role in household food security and children’s health. In countries where women lack land ownership rights, for example, there are on average 60 percent more malnourished children. The global development community recognizes the foundational importance of achieving equitable and secure land and housing rights for women. This increased awareness is reflected in the adoption of land rights related objectives and targets in several global and regional development frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT), the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G), and African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, and numerous human rights standards. But this increased recognition has not always translated into action on the ground. Implementation of gender equitable land laws and policies requires greater focus and resources. Land administration agencies and professionals play a critical role in securing WLR and tenure security at all levels – local, national and regional.

That is why FIG has joined the Stand for Her Land campaign. The campaign seeks to close the gap between law (including customary law), policy and practice, enabling and empowering millions of women around the world to realize their land rights. This session will outline the work of Stand for Her Land, and identify ways for FIG members to engage with the campaign and its mission of stronger implementation of women’s land, housing, and tenure rights.

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