



Solid and adequate land policies, if implemented, could catalyze Africa's transformation

By Didier Habimana and Ruth Hall

The inaugural Conference on Land Policy in Africa opened Tuesday evening at the African Union Headquarters in Ethiopia with a strong call for a robust deepening of land governance on the continent and an appeal for promoting policy and regulatory environments that advance large scale agricultural production and productivity. Organized around the theme: "The next decade of land policy in Africa: Ensuring agricultural development and inclusive growth" the 11-14 November conference is in line with the 2014 African Union year of Agriculture and food security.

African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Rhoda Tumusiime, emphasized that Agriculture is still a key driver of Africa's economic transformation, with the prime responsibility of providing employment opportunities for a rapidly growing and predominantly youth population, sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction.

"We are proud that Africa is the only continent that has defined its own agenda for land policy. This conference is timely and allows us to track progress in the implementation of the AU declaration on land," she said. Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Tefera Debrew challenged governments on the situation of low productivity and food security in the midst of substantial land resources, stating, 'it is not acceptable'. He called on AU member states to 'diligently implement the African Union-led continental frameworks and guiding principles as they could reverse the situation if implemented.

In his remarks, Stephen Karingi, Director of the Regional Integration and Trade Division at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) stressed the need to improve the governance of land resources on the continent. "Property rights need to be clarified, land rights of African people, including rights of women and pastoral communities need to be



The inaugural Conference on Land Policy in Africa opened Tuesday evening at the African Union Headquarters.

secured and Africa needs to enhance its land use planning and sustainable land management," he said.

Karingi called on African governments and other institutions on the continent to promote effective and efficient land administration systems based on good governance of land resources. He cited examples from other parts of the world, where land development

has allowed countries to have more productive agriculture and ensure food security and even food export.

Kafui Afiwa Kuwonu of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDaf) spelt out how civil society organisations intend to use the platform provided by this conference:

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Securing land rights in Africa has come a long way

Experts and practitioners attending the Land Policy Conference in Addis Ababa discussed the substantial progress over the past decade to advance issues of land administration and governance. As indicated by Clarissa Augustinus of the Global Land Tool Network at UN-Habitat, the tripartite partnership of

the African Union Commission, African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa has made an enormous contribution in this respect through the establishment of the Land Policy Initiative.

"Additionally, policy makers and

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Opinion

Big foreign money is being poured into Africa's agriculture - sadly it is not to grow food

By Carlos Lopes

Small-holder farmers hold key to Africa's food security, but are often excluded from debates on agricultural investments.

SMALL-HOLD producers, who are most directly dependent on ecosystem services, are critical agents for the future of agriculture in Africa.

They contribute to poverty reduction and food security, especially in the rural areas. Disappointingly, they are often excluded from debates on agricultural investments. This exclusion has become more pronounced in the debate on large scale land based investments.

Africa currently contributes 45% of all large scale land Based investments globally, followed by Asia at 37%. The top ten countries in Africa targeted by local and international investors account for 70% of concluded land contracts and 54% of large-scale land based investments deals on the continent.

Global challenges in food security

The majority of cases in Africa are driven by foreign based investors representing 73% of the deals. The high interest in these investments is principally driven by global challenges in food security, although industry, forestry, conservation and tourism play an important role. The combined investment in agriculture and livestock totals 87% of all cases.

Despite the high large scale land based investments in agriculture, not much land is utilised to grow food crops. Large scale agricultural investments in biofuels and other industry related crops take up a substantial chunk of fertile land. Yet, if Africa is to be food secure, most of the agricultural land ought to be dedicated to food crops.

Granted, large scale crop production, agro-industry and agri-business do provide an opportunity to address Africa's yield gap and enhance job creation among the youth. They are also likely to increase intra-Africa trade and improve infrastructure, mechanisation, productivity and access to markets. But the investments are also replete with risks because the acquisitions are occurring within a governance and policy framework that is substantially facilitative of foreign investment and minimally of local community interests.

Without sustained multi-stakeholder involvement in decision making, respect for human and property rights, monitoring of the investments as well as accountability and transparency in the land deals, there is the



Carlos Lopes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Africa

risk of water sources being jeopardised, family farming and smallholder food production being subverted, and the land rights of local land users undermined. It is crucial that a balance is maintained between market needs and developmental, environmental and social interests. Smallholder producers are key to this process.

Spirit of Maputo Declaration

African countries have an opportunity to anchor agriculture in the national agenda. The commitment under the 2003 Maputo Declaration to increase public spending on agriculture to a modest 10% of their national budgets and raise agricultural productivity by at least 6% is yet to be met. On average, public expenditure allocated to agriculture accounts for slightly over 5%. This under-investment in agriculture by African governments has created an environment for uncoordinated investment in land.

The success of large-scale agricultural investments on the continent will largely depend on the extent to which key land governance and policy reforms are undertaken by African countries.

At the core of these reforms is an inclusive land tenure system. It would not only buttress

the land rights of local communities, women and youth but also increase economic development, promote gender equality and inspire younger women and men to take up agricultural activities. An inclusive land tenure system would also improve efficiency of land use and climate change mitigation and contribute to Africa's economic transformation.

Some states step up

Fortunately, a number of countries have set up processes for the formulation and implementation of land policies that would make land tenure systems more inclusive and secure. The African Union Commission, Economic Commission for Africa and African Development Bank's Land Policy Initiative is the institution that has been mandated by African Heads of State and Governments to galvanize support for land policy formation, implementation, and monitoring.

To ensure systematic discharge of its mandate, the Land Policy Initiative is guided by the *African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa* which calls for the application of the *Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa* in land policy processes.

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What the experts told the media

By Abel Akara

The inaugural Conference on Land Policy in Africa has succeeded to pull the interest of journalists from across the continent, in spite of the paucity of structured debates on the complex issues of land policy in the public domain. Just after the opening ceremony of the Conference, several journalists quizzed the leading figures of the partner institutions that have lent support to this first grand encounter on land issues on the continent. To their specific questions, also came specific answers, chronicled below in English and French.

LPC Bulletin: It's been about 2 years since the Conference of African Ministers of Mining unanimously agreed on the African Mining Vision. From your experience so far, what has been achieved so far in actualising some of the most important first steps of the African mining Vision?

Stephen Karingi Director, Regional Integration Trade Division, ECA

I'm privileged to have been involved in the process of translating that African Mining Vision into a clear action plan at the ECA, of course under the leadership of the Commissioner for Trade and Industry at the AUC which we presented to African ministers. A key element of the implementation of that plan was establishing the African Minerals Development Centre with specific resource

address that address the concerns that African countries had when they initially started discussing a mining vision. These include elements on beneficiation, the consideration of artisanal mining, ideas on the quantification of natural resource wealth by states to enable them better negotiate contracts with investors. So there is a clear set up of an institutional framework for member States to tackle these elements, which they identified at the outset.

LPC Bulletin: In some countries there are cases where some mining issues are being put on hold because new policies are expected to come into play regarding land – that would probably have an effect on the growth of some economies. How should these issues be mitigated?



Stephen Karingi Director, Regional Integration Trade Division, Economic Commission for Africa

SK: This is an important question because we have seen in various member States where important projects on infrastructure and mineral exploitation have actually been stopped through court injunctions on issues that have to do with the land where those projects are earmarked to take place. It's really a question of land policy. That is part of the *raison d'être* of the Land Policy Initiative –to help governments address the challenge of the nexus between mining and land as well as between land and infrastructural development in order to disentangle those difficulties.

How grassroots women in Central Uganda acquired land rights

By Abel Akara

Jinja, a small town on the northern-most tip of Lake Victoria, in Uganda, has the calibre of grassroots women who would be termed one of a kind. And yet, their struggle is not atypical to that of other grassroots African communities, trying to survive in a climate of deprivation and in the context of patriarchy.

Housing has always been a difficult equation for most in that settlement. In spite of the existence of urban estates, slum dwellings have had a stubborn story of their own. And each family that lives in these dwellings knows the struggle of the woman in the house for bread and butter, in a precarious climate visited by evictions from their “property” when the time comes for municipal upgrading.

These conditions inspired a group of women to set up the Jinja Slum Women initiative for Development (SWID) in 2003 with the slogan – “an empowered community and a home for every woman!” Enter, then, the tussle for developing land that they had eventually struggled to procure informally. But as Joyce Rosemary Nangobi, SWID's director told the Conference on Land Policy in Africa,



Jinja needed her!

Wednesday, titling the land bought this way by women and moving on to get loans to develop their parcels, proved difficult.

“So we had to partner with the Huairou Commission, through which we were able to get funds to study the bottlenecks and barriers to women's attempt to access land titles,” she explained. This, she went on, helped the wom-

en to understand the land rights of Uganda and the complex procedures on the acquisition of land titles.

And though getting and developing land still proves difficult, the women have come round the original stumbling blocks, since

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Media call for support to push Africa's land reform agenda

By Abel Akara



In prelude to the inaugural Conference of Land Policy in Africa (CLPA) to run from 11 to 14 November in Addis Ababa, a group of journalists from across the continent today expressed their enthusiasm to push the land reform agenda but called for continuous support from key advocacy institutions such as the Land Policy Initiative (LPI). The LPI is a joint partnership of the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, set up to support African governments in addressing contemporary land policy problems.

This was during a workshop to equip the

journalists with the tools to better cover the Conference and move on with advocating land policy reforms in Africa. Following the workshop, the media practitioners quickly established themselves as the nucleus of a new network of journalists on land issues. But they requested continuous LPI support in facilitating robust training in the area and linking them to relevant data and knowledge institutions in a bid to grow a movement of land governance advocates to support Africa's overall development.

"The media can influence policy makers to adopt inclusive policies and frameworks

that advance the sustainable use of lands in Africa," the journalists were told, by Janet Edeme who opened the workshop on behalf of the AUC-AfDB-ECA consortium. "But the media have so far been rarely targeted for capacity development on land issues," she said.

Some of the crucial ways in which the media can play a key role in the land policy dialogue, LPI experts said, would be to expose corrupt practices, monitor land reforms as well as acquisitions and deals, demand for governments' accountability, create forums for land stakeholders to engage the state and utilise information technology to advance land reform processes. But to do this, they need to understand the core elements of land governance. Such elements include access and rights issues, the state of natural resources associated with land, land use privileges, decision-making processes on appropriation, the security of rights especially with regards to women and indigenous peoples, and mechanisms for resolving land conflicts. These, they were advised, should be underpinned by responsible reporting that seeks common ground and is conflict-sensitive but which goes ahead to ask the "so what?" question before publishing.

The journalists are expected to immediately reflect their new perspectives in their coverage of the 4-day conference. The Conference will dwell extensively on securing land rights, inclusive agricultural growth in the context of large scale investments and emerging best practices in developing and implementing land policies.

How grassroots...

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they started working together and in partnership with benevolent organisations. They have set up a "revolving loan fund" which has enabled 120 women to access land in the Jinja Council, with some of them getting titles.

To guard against trespassing squabbles, they systematically engage professional surveyors to demarcate their acquired land. Even then, numerous challenges still stand in the way to procuring their land certificates. This is where the women play out the principle of "unity is strength." To acquire any single document, they work as a group to discourage land officers from their ossified practice of bribe asking.

And although challenges remain, SWID's modus operandi and the successes its women have achieved, has won the respect and collaboration of men, who now agree to the principles of women officially



A Jinja from slums to flats is possible.

owning or co-owning land.

So far, the women have built some houses using interlocking blocks and developed big farms with the help of Government, which

has been providing the seeds. Their next frontier, Joyce says, is the use of machinery for improved farming. There again, their hopes lie on the State.

Africa takes first important step in tackling large scale land-based investments

By John Kaninda

Continental efforts to adopt land policies that leverage on land as a strategic resource for inclusive and sustainable development took a step forward with the official launch of the African Union Guiding Principles on Large Scale Land Based Investments in Africa (LSLBI).

The launch, which took place during the Inaugural Land Policy Conference in Africa, this Wednesday at the African Union Conference Center in Addis Ababa, kick starts a decade during which African countries are expected to draft policies that recognize the strategic importance of land and encourage its efficient use in Africa's efforts for structural transformation, industrialization and inclusive development.

"This set of principles will equip African countries and enable them to manage land in a transparent and sustainable manner and to negotiate investments with knowledge of resources available on one land as well as the rights attached to it," said Joan Kagwanja, Chief of the Land Policy Initiative, housed by the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa.

Issues around land use and management are becoming important and will increasingly gain prominence as Africa continues to be an attractive destination for foreign – and local – investors. The continual discovery of minerals, and more recently, of oil puts more pressure on governments to negotiate deals that are both economically and socially beneficial to the peoples of Africa and this includes the way land is allocated and the consequences it has on populations living close to mining sites and oil fields.

Moreover, Africa accounts for nearly 60%



UN Photo/Stanton Winer

of the world's arable land, has a population of just over one billion individuals and records high demographic rates. And with global needs for food security rising, it is not surprising that Africa is seen as the next global 'food reserve' and that investors are vying for large portions of land ushering an era of controversial changing of hands of vast swathes of land, in some cases, without compensation to the affected populations.

"When the land grabs took place from 2008, African countries were not ready. Land had not been mapped, owners were unidentified and as a consequence, contracts were not negotiated in a way to make investments sustainable and dwellers ended up losing the most," says Ms. Kagwanja.

The way forward is articulated in the African Union-led Guiding Principles on Large Scale Land Based Investments aim to facilitate national land policy development and implementation process and to improve the

governance of large-scale land based investments. They are articulated as fundamental principles based on human rights of communities, responsible governance of land, social acceptance by affected communities, gender equality and women access to land ownership, cost-benefits study and mutual accountability. They are also aligned to national strategies for sustainable agriculture.

The challenge, following the launch of the LSLBI, is their adoption and operationalization by AU member States. But Ms Kagwanja believes that African countries are ready to take the challenge.

"We have already launched a series of training to build capacity of leaders, parliamentarians, jurists and other practitioners specializing in land issues. We hope that within the next three years at least, we will be able to stop land grabs. And that over the next decade, land management will have seen much needed improvement."

Population growth and land scarcity: the other side of the coin

By Didier Habimana

Experts attending the inaugural Land policy conference in Addis Ababa this week debated the question of population growth and its impacts on land scarcity in an exchange of views stemming from a presentation that veered from long-held notions of population growth as a problem in the context of land use.

The presenter, Alfred Bizoza an Agricultural Economist from the University of Rwanda demonstrated the opportunities that lie in population growth and how this phenomenon should instead be viewed as "an enabler for the overall economic development and not

necessarily as a problem."

In the session, themed, Experiences, challenges and options of securing land access for all Bizoza said that it is only when the continent fails to create economic opportunities in the services and manufacturing sector, along the agriculture value chains that high fertility levels and population pressure could cause resource related difficulties and lead to environmental degradation.

"Less attention has been paid to this side of the 'Coin'", argued Bizoza. Non-farm sectors need much attention for Africa's development. Our People's livelihoods can be created

outside agriculture".

Africa needs to create over 5 million jobs per year for its growing young population if it is to reap a potential demographic dividend and transform its economies into vibrant industrial growth poles.

"The agricultural sector as it stands now cannot create the needed jobs", stated Bizoza. "We need to use the existing land efficiently and in an intensive way but also link our population to non-farm sector activities, which could employ Africa's large reservoir of its young labour force".

The results from his paper imply that the other side of the "coin" is to continue develop-

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Parliamentarians stress better governance of large scale land based investment

By Dana Palade

Addis Ababa, 12 November 2014 – African Parliamentarians from the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), regional legislative Assemblies, and National Assemblies play a critical role in the development, implementation, and monitoring of appropriate legal and legislative frameworks that would enable African countries to fully benefit from their land resources.

This was one of the main conclusions of a discussion focused on “*The role of parliaments in strengthening land governance*,” that took place on the second day of the Conference on Land Policy in Africa. The session, facilitated by Ms Joan Kagwanja, Chief of the Land Policy Initiative, brought together four parliamentarians: Abdoulie K. Jawla (Gambia), Bernadeta Mushashu (Tanzania), Patrick Mayombe (DRC), and Priscah Mupfumira (Zimbabwe).

The discussion emphasized countries’ experiences and challenges in dealing with land governance issues, especially as they relate to large scale land based investments (LSLBI), poor access to land by women, and historical injustices. It was noted that unless these challenges are properly addressed, African countries cannot realize their economic transformation in which land has a vital role to play.

Tanzanian parliamentarian, Hon. Mushashu highlighted the need for transparency negotiating skills, and accountability so that communities can reap tangible advantages from land acquisitions at the local level. “Land is the only true value that our poor Africans possess,” he stated.

In the same vein, Hon. Jawla noted, parliamentarians should advance a sincere dialogue with their constituencies and countries’ leadership, in view of a much-needed alignment of customary and statutory laws related to land. He further emphasized the requirement for continental decisions and guidelines be harmonized with national laws.

The domestication of regional and continental commitments in specific countries was highlighted as a priority by Hon. Mayombe as well, together with the need for scientists, researchers, and parliamentarians to work in close partnership. This would allow for National Assemblies to draft and pass laws that are better anchored in solid information and data, so that they provide more viable solutions to key land issues.

Hon. Mupfumira portrayed the challenges that her native Zimbabwe faced in articulating land reforms against the backdrop of



Anonio Florent

historical injustices and legacies attributed to colonial rule. She noted that, in view of new Constitution passed by the country, land reforms can support the return of Zimbabwe in its “role of being the bread basket of

Southern Africa.” Hon. Mupfumira stressed, “the land is the economy, and the economy is land,” echoing the conviction that good land governance is essential to economic transformation.

Big foreign money ... continued from page 2

When African States invest in effective land management and use, in accordance with the recently adopted *Guiding Principles on Large Scale Land Based Investments*, they increase the opportunities for meeting the food needs of their populations, reduce poverty and accelerate structural transformation of rural economies. Also, by refocusing energies to improving lives in rural areas through secure tenure, increased access to land, comprehensive land use planning and zoning, and innovative

agricultural practices, a crucial step is made towards sustainable development.

Carlos Lopes Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), headquartered in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

The article was first published by the Mail & Guardian as part of the Land Policy Initiative’s advocacy on the land governance.

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Population growth and land... continued from page 3

ing the non-farm sector, to enable it to uptake new and active entrants to the labour market.

“More job opportunities should come from the non-farm sectors, if we are to attain the desired inclusive transformation of the continent”, he said.

He further advocated for education that supports entrepreneurship and self-employment as well as the creation of businesses, as

one of the areas to strengthen the development of the non-farm sector.

He cited the example of Rwanda, where estimates show that about 57.8 to 55.9 percent of the total agricultural land area remains potentially uncultivated, Bizoza also called for African governments “to use richly the existent arable land whose potential remain untapped.”

New approach to land rights advocacy is bearing fruits in Africa

By John Kaninda

Taking advantage of government reforms of their countries' forestry, land and mining codes, various associations and civil society actors across Africa are taking an innovative approach to advocacy and consulting aiming at secure land rights and tenure for vulnerable communities, which might be negatively affected by large scale land-based investments.

While advocacy will usually be associated with civil society organizations, it might come as a surprise to many that a growing number of Parliamentarians in some countries in central Africa are setting up associations and forming alliances for high level advocacy of security of land tenure and rights in favor of vulnerable communities.

In Cameroon, the local chapters of the sub regional network of parliamentarians for the sustainable management of forests and ecosystems of Central Africa (REPAR) and the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) have teamed up with to support local communities in their quest to avoid being marginalized, to see their land rights recognized, secured and protected during the round of legal reforms of the forestry and land codes.

"Cameroon has set the objective to transform into an emerging economy by 2035," says Estelle Karyn Mandeng Ntsimi, REPAR's legal chief. "This shall entail the realization of huge investment projects by the State and foreign investors."

In this context, the potential for ignoring communities' rights to their land is big, however, the ray of hope comes from the fact that any investment-oriented government action is to be based on the country's Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) for the period 2010 – 2020, which focuses on recognizing and securing community land rights and portrays land as an economic asset that shall enable the government to achieve its goals of inclusive growth. Using the spirit of the GESP as a springboard, REPAR and RRI have carried out major advocacy actions. Among such were the Parliament-Government dialogue on land tenure in 2013 and the recently held Land and Forestry Tenure Week (29 September to 01 October 2014).

These actions have led to a rapprochement between the executive and the legislative and improved their dialogue on land tenure. "It is clear that the government has opted for a positive change. Consultation meetings are organized with other stakeholders and different ministries are starting to cooperate – even though this will not always be backed by concrete and effective actions."

In Mali, while favoring a consultative approach such as the one taken by REPAR and RRI, the organization Coordination Nationale



UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran

des Organisations Paysannes (CNOP) has decided to prioritize securing land ownership over advocating the rights of communities. "It all starts with securing community land rights, this comes first. The success of the rest (advocacy for gender equality, women and youth access to land, dialogue with communities) is highly dependent on it," says Chantal Javocetti, CNOP's Land and Agro-ecology Officer.

CNOP's approach has of late borne positive results. "We had a meeting with the country's Prime Minister, which has led to the setting up of an inter-ministerial commission on land negotiations," says Ms. Javocetti. In August, more than 11 000 land titles were suspended for investigation into fraudulent practices in land appropriation and allocation and the Malian government has imposed a

six-month (renewable) moratorium on land allocation across the country.

Ms Javocetti believes that the government's new stance will certainly allow communities to cement their land rights or see them reinstated as rightful land owners in case they had been the victims to land expropriation.

Challenges remain many in ensuring that community land rights are respected as African governments continue to face pressure from their own economic growth drive and push from investors to secure tenure on vast swaths of lands. An innovative approach to advocacy and government engagement should offer an efficient avenue for securing community land rights in the future. Both Ms. Ntsimi and Javocetti agree that it is worth exploring.

Did you know?

The size of agricultural land in Africa is approximately 1 billion hectares distributed across the various sub-regions of Africa as follows:



26% Eastern

24% Western

21% Northern

15% Southern

14% Central

Source: AfDB

Women have a lot to say

Gender equity: it's time to move from principles to practice

“When it comes to land, women have a lot to say; they are at the forefront of demanding land rights.” This was the starting point for Hubert Ouedraogo of the Land Policy Initiative, who gave a wide-ranging presentation on women’s land rights in Africa. He argued that African traditional systems are patriarchal, treating women as dependents, despite their central roles in land use. This, he said, prevents women from participating in land administration processes and institutions.

It was noted that while most African states now have non-discriminatory laws and have committed to international conventions, in practice, however, it still persists. Participants agreed that these principles need to form the basis for transforming land administration systems, many of which still automatically identify men as household heads and therefore as title holders, but also to challenge customary tenure practices and institutions. It was suggested that the challenge is to transfer the issue of women’s property rights from the private domain of the household to the public domain of human rights. This has been and continues to be central to the work of the LPI, which has adopted targets: by the year 2025, 30% of land allocate by the state, and 30% of documented land rights, must be for women.

For his part, Andrew Hilton of the FAO stressed that we cannot deal with land issues and challenges without political leadership and support from national governments and other decision makers. He argued that we should not get too ‘hung up’ on the word ‘voluntary’ in the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. Rather, there has been substantial take-up of these guidelines. A lesson learnt since they were adopted two and half years ago is that implementing the them is not simple; indeed, it is not clear how many countries have implemented them, nor even how this can be



measured. Even so, participants noted that the guidelines serve as a catalyst for change, and stakeholders must develop their own approach to operationalizing them within diverse con-

texts. And while progress has been made, it will be a long road ahead to realize the vision of these guidelines.

Securing land rights in Africa has come a long way

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“Additionally, policy makers and technical experts have started to cooperate, and we have witnessed the growth of land gov-

ernance – ten years ago, the term ‘land governance’ was hardly mentioned by anyone, while today, it is mainstreamed in all our work,” she said.

Discussions underscored the need to adapt land administration to tenure systems and not vice versa and proposed the need for pro-poor tools as a means to adjudicate and secure rights across different tenure systems. The Global Land Tool Network, participants learnt, has developed tools to support gender-equitable land administration. The session stressed that customary tenure is a robust system that should be recognized and supported, not treated as an inferior form of tenure.

Solid and adequate land policies...

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Antonio Fiorente

Participants at the Land Policy conference

to share experiences and to challenge policymakers, but also to inspire participants to forge ahead with implementation and to be part of the solution: 'we commit to disseminate information on land policy and collaborate in efforts and to share best practices', she promised.

Josephine Ngire, Resident Representative of the African Development Bank to Ethiopia reiterated that land policy development and accompanying policy frameworks are critical for Africa's transformation.

"Land in Africa is not simply an economic and environmental asset but also a social, cultural, spiritual resource and a social identity." She noted that land problems must be addressed, if sustainable development in Africa is to be realized.

For her part, Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Secretary of UN-Habitat declared, 'Leadership is needed where the common good is in conflict with the private good – and land is such an area that calls for leadership.' She said that the engagements at this conference, between policy makers, practitioners, civil society and academics, are crucial for strengthening such leadership.

Ambassador Gary Quince, head of European Union Delegation to Ethiopia and to the African Union, emphasized the partnership and collaboration that has been forged between the EU and AU, with the EU now

supporting land tenure programmes currently in ten countries. Quince pointed out that, since the AU Declaration was adopted five years ago, Africa has enjoyed good economic growth, and the importance of agriculture has been recognized. She however stressed the need to look at the challenges that are emerging, such as the upsurge of conflict across Africa and the related displacement of many thousands of people from their land and livelihoods.

The conference is organized by the Land Policy initiative, a tripartite consortium comprising the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, and the Africa Development Bank.



THE NEXT DECADE OF LAND POLICY IN AFRICA: ENSURING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

11-14 November 2014
African Union Conference Center
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Securing land rights in Africa...

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The Land Policy Conference Bulletin is the result of voluntary contributions by: Abel Akara, Writer, ECA; Aristide Somda, Translator, ECA; Dana Palade, Writer, Translator, LPI/ECA; Didier Habimana, Writer, ECA; John Kaninda, Writer, ECA; Ruth Hall, Writer, Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), South Africa; and Mercy Wambui, Editor, ECA

Photos: Antonio Fiorente

Design and Printing by PDS/ECA: ECA Publishing and Distribution Unit

Overall conceptual guidance provided by Joan Kagwanja and members of the Land Policy Conference Scientific Committee

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