

Opening Remarks
Joan Kagwanja, Coordinator, ALPC

Training Workshop on
Effective Land Administration In Africa

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of UNECA, AfDB and the AU, I wish to welcome you to Addis Ababa; and ECA specifically for this important training workshop on Effective Land Administration in Africa.

We sincerely appreciate your presence in this Workshop and hope that you will enjoy your stay.

Allow me to recognize our partners who have worked tirelessly to get you here; BMZ/ GIZ ; RCMRD and UN-Habitat-GLTN. Their financial and Technical support is instrumental to this training and our work on capacity development in general.

This training builds on an initial training held by LPI in partnership with RCMRD in Nairobi in 2016. In particular, we are implementing a key recommendation from that training, “to ensure that the training on land administration continues into the future in order to reach out to more land practitioners in the land sector.” It is always an LPI commitment that we heed recommendations and in this case, we have expanded our partnerships to ensure that we succeed.

As we all know, this training addresses a very important land related challenge in Africa: Land administration. Findings from an LPI study revealed that 90% of Africa’s land is undocumented and informally administered. The informality of land administration comes with a lot of uncertainties in a changing environment - Lack of transparency and corruption; Weak land use planning; Increasing inequality in land ownership and landlessness; and Limited control and ownership of land by women, among others.

What is encouraging though, is that Africa is innovative and many Countries have come up with unique ways and means of addressing these challenges. Innovation is influenced by many variables including opportunities to learn from one another. I believe that this meeting will enhance our ability to learn what other countries in the

continent are doing: what is working to improve their land administration systems. It is also an opportunity to learn new tools that we can employ to improve land administration systems in our countries.

The ALPC (formerly LPI) has been supporting Member States to improve land policy processes in Africa since 2006 when it was established. We can report with confidence that although there is a lot that remains to be done; land administration systems in Africa are improving. We should therefore not be discouraged, but instead strive to do even better: I believe are on the right course.

Let me now take this opportunity to thank you for offering to extend your stay to attend the CLPA-2017 next week. The Conference; *“The Africa we want; achieving Social Economic Transformation through Inclusive and Equitable Access to land by the youth”* is a great opportunity for Networking and learning from a wide range of people who bring different perspectives and experiences on land governance. You will have an opportunity to interact with our traditional leaders, senior government officials, private sector, civil society, and of course research and academia. I believe by next Friday, we will know more about what is happening in the Continent and beyond in the real of land governance. I therefore look forward to interacting with you next week.

Let me end by wishing you a great learning event and thank you for listening.