

LAND POLICY INITIATIVE

THE BRIEF

Update on LPI Activities January to June 2014

Key Events

✓ The Land Policy Initiative participated in a High Level breakfast meeting for the Initiative to Empower Women in Agriculture (EWA), organized as a side event of the January 2014 AU Summit, and provided inputs on its current work in the areas of land reform and women land rights. The event was chaired by H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, with H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, giving the opening statement. The LPI also provided inputs to the 2013 AU Chairperson's report, which was launched during the Summit.

✓ The LPI organized from 15 to 22 January a drafting retreat and review workshop for the development of Guiding Principles (GPs) on Large Scale Land Based Investments in Africa (LSLBI). The development of the GPs draws from evidence provided by the assessment study of LSLBI, prepared in 2013. The reviewers discussed extensively the draft, and made recommendations for improvement. The improved version of the GPs will be submitted for a broader stakeholder consultation.

✓ The Land Policy Initiative supported the organization of a *Civil Society (CSO) Meeting on the Establishment of a Platform* that would ensure continued and organized stakeholder engagement in support of the implementation of the African Union Declaration on land. The meeting was held in Dakar, Senegal, on 18 and 19 March 2014. Participants in the meeting agreed that the CSO Platform on land policy in Africa be organized around working groups and themes such as women's land rights, land tenure security and customary tenure, land governance for natural resource management, large scale land based investments (LSLBI),

transparency and accountability, and monitoring and evaluation.

✓ The Land Policy Initiative organized and serviced a one-day land policy session at the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) Partnership Platform Meeting, whose theme was *"Transforming Africa's agriculture - harnessing opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable development."* The meeting, held in Durban, South Africa, between 18 and 22 March 2014, marked ten years of CAADP implementation, and was an important part of a series of high-level events being held in the auspices of the 2014 African Union Year of Agriculture and Food Security.



Amy Vitale/The World Bank

The Land Policy Initiative (LPI) presented an issues paper on *"Promoting land policies and land management systems that facilitate agricultural investments and economic growth in Africa."* The presentation highlighted key land-related issues that continue to hamper the successful implementation of CAADP, and pointed to the urgent need to integrate land policy related con-

cerns in CAADP implementation at country level. An additional paper presentation was based on LPI work on large scale land based investments (LSLBI), focusing on the recent LPI assessment report and guiding principles. The third paper presented by the LPI analyzed the imperative of increasing access to land for women and youth in Africa.

✓ The LPI organized an advocacy event and a Development Partners Platform Meeting alongside in the 2014 annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, held in Washington D.C., between 24 and 28 March 2014. The events aimed at raising awareness and enhancing partnerships for the implementation of Africa's land agenda through building synergies and alignment of initiatives at country level operations. These events also provided opportunities to garner support for the first edition of the LPI Conference on Land Policy, scheduled to take place in Accra Ghana in November 2014.

✓ The Land Policy Initiative participated in the High-Level Conference on Property Rights on the theme *"Land tenure security, the missing key to eradicating poverty"*, organized by the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, on 9 April 2014. In the context of discussions on post-2015 development agenda, the conference aimed at addressing the insecurity of land tenure and absence of property rights prevalent in developing countries. The LPI contributed to the panel discussion *"Looking ahead: challenges for the European Union and the international development community."* The LPI presentation offered an overview of the continental and global instruments framing Africa's agenda on land policy and governance, such as the African Union Framework and Guidelines on land policy in Africa. It also called for the inclusion of land indicators in the post-2015 agenda. A special emphasis was placed on topics such as the need to secure land tenure for women, adopt coherent indicators for budgetary and resource allocation, and reinforce legal and institutional frameworks that are participatory and address land tenure rights in both urban and rural settings.

✓ The Land Policy Initiative played an active role in the AU Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, which included an Experts' meeting and a Ministerial session, and was held between 28 April and 2 May 2014, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Conference was organized under the theme *"Transforming Africa's agriculture for*

shared prosperity and improved livelihoods through harnessing opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable development." The LPI contributed to thematic papers and presentations, and ensured that land tenure and land governance concerns were well reflected. The inclusion of land policy issues among the Conference recommendations opens a window of opportunity for LPI to further engage with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and member States on land policy reform and implementation agenda. The Conference endorsed the Guiding Principles on large scale land based investments (LSLBI) prepared by the LPI.

✓ The LPI Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) was held on 5 May 2014, and examined progress in implementing decisions of the previous SCM, held in November 2013, and the 2013 LPI work plan including fund utilization. The Meeting commended the LPI Secretariat for the rate of programme implementation, and for the recent completion of recruitment process that consolidates the team's expertise. The Meeting also appreciated the increased efforts to reinforce collaboration with Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and to respond to specific countries' requests for technical assistance, in order to advance the implementation of the African Union agenda on land. The next LPI SCM will be held on 15 November 2014, in Accra, Ghana. The SCM meeting was preceded by a one-day planning workshop, held on 3 May, and aimed at developing a joint work plan between the LPI and partners identified as key actors in the implementation of the AU Declaration on Land. The planning workshop was attended by representatives of RECs, PAP, PAFO, the Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCRMD), and civil society organizations.



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✓ The LPI participated in the African Agribusiness Forum (AAF), organized on 22 June, ahead of the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government, and held under the theme “*Transforming Africa’s agriculture for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods: harnessing opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable development.*” The Land Policy Initiative contributed to presentations and discussions on two panels: “*Overview of the African agribusiness and private sector – to the next decade,*” and “*Women and youth throughout African agribusiness: opportunities in the next decade.*”

✓ The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mr. Carlos Lopes, and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Mr. Graziano da Silva, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that provides a framework for collaboration between the two institutions. The MOU signing ceremony took place on 27 June 2014, at the Sipopo Conference Center, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, and it was an event alongside the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government. One of the major objectives of the MOU is to provide support to African Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the development, implementation, and monitoring of sustainable and effective land policies, in line with two major documents guiding land governance. The first document, the *Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G)*, was developed by the Land Policy Initiative (LPI). The F&G was adopted in March 2009 by Afri-

can Ministers in charge of Agriculture, livestock and land, and further endorsed by the African Heads of State and Government, through the *Declaration on land issues and challenges in Africa*, during the AU Summit in July 2009.

The second document, developed with technical support and coordination provided by FAO, is the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)*. Many of the considerations in the VGGT address issues that are fundamental elements of land policies, at a global level.

Knowledge Generation and Information Sharing

✓ A learning event on land policy formulation and implementation was organized in Niger, from 26 to 28 February. This event is part of the LPI/SDC project in support of the implementation of the AU Declaration on Land. The event was jointly organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Rural Code of Niger and the LPI, and aimed at equipping participants with augmented knowledge on strategic planning and land policy development.

✓ The LPI in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), and the African Union Commission hosted a Conference on Agricultural Investment, Gender, and Land in Africa on 5 March 2014, in Cape Town, South Africa. The conference was attended by over 200 delegates from the agricultural and related sectors.

✓ The Land Policy Initiative co-sponsored and participated in the 2014 annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, held in Washington D.C., between 24 and 28 March 2014, under the theme “*Integrating Land Governance into the Post-2015 Agenda: Harnessing Synergies for Implementation and Monitoring Impact.*” The events organized by the LPI within the Conference included a dedicated session that showcased outcomes of collaborative efforts (with PAP, ECOWAS, IGAD, and Niger) in support of the implementation of the African Union Declaration on Land.

✓ A validation workshop of the “*Report on promising practices on land use planning for securing land right for rural producers*” was organized in Niamey,



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Niger, on 22 April 2014, by LPI and the National Committee of the Rural Code of Niger, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The workshop, structured around a series of presentations and discussions, made recommendations for the implementation of a roadmap for the effective development of local land use plans in Niger. More than 30 participants representing the government, organizations working in the sector of land and natural resource management, the private sector, research organizations, and organizations of producers in Niger took part in the workshop. The workshop was followed by a two-day session of learning and sharing of best practices on land policy development and implementation, including land use and strategic planning, which benefitted from the participation of Burkina Faso, Tanzania and Ghana.



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Capacity Development

✓ The LPI organized a one-day planning event on land policy for Regional Economic Communities (RECs), continental organizations, and LPI partners, on 3 March 2014 in Addis Ababa. The goal of the meeting was to develop two-year (2014-2015) work plans to support the implement the AU Declaration on Land. About 25 participants representing five RECs, NEPAD, Pan-African Parliament, Pan-African Farmers Association, CSO platform, RCMRD, and development partners World Bank, EU, Swiss Development Cooperation, IFAD, FAO, and UN Habitat attended the planning retreat.

✓ A Multi-stakeholder Consultative Meeting was held in Lusaka, Zambia, on 6 and 7 March 2014, organized by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), through LPI, in partnership with the Government of Zambia. This was the first event of the project *LPI-ECA Support towards Participatory Land Policy Development*

in Zambia, developed following a request by the government of Zambia last year through H.E. Ambassador Susan Sikaneta. The LPI partners with the Capacity Development Division (CDD) and the Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA) in providing technical support to Zambia's efforts to develop a comprehensive land policy. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Zambian Government, the private sector, civil society, producer organizations, research and academia, and development partners. LPI will follow-up on the outcomes of the meeting through assistance in the consolidation of a business plan and fundraising to support the activities contained in the action plan for Zambia, developed by stakeholders at the meeting. In addition, the LPI is working closely with the Government to establish a development partner platform on land policy in Zambia.

Partnerships

✓ The LPI advanced discussions and finalization of proposal on the support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to IGAD through LPI to mainstream land issues in IGAD programmes.