

PTG-06: Regional initiatives to improve land governance

25 March 2014, 09:45-11:15, MC 4-800

Special panel at the World Bank conference “Integrating Land Governance into the Post-2015 Agenda: Harnessing Synergies for Implementation and Monitoring Impact”

Land governance agendas differ from one region of the globe to another due to differences in geography, histories, cultures, national and regional land governance structures. At the same time, in each continent land resources are shared internationally; this requires cooperation at regional level between national governments and stakeholders as well as exchange of experiences and practices between the regions on global level. Only through such global multilevel and multi-stakeholder cooperation it is possible to address land resources degradation and the shrinking of available land due to rapid urban development.

In Europe and Central Asia, under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) was established as an intergovernmental platform for cooperation on land administration and management. The WPLA is an effective mechanism for the exchange of best practices, capacity building for the land administration authorities in the 56 member States of UNECE.

In other regions of the world, such as Africa, Western Asia and Latin America, multiple regional initiatives on land administration and management are ongoing and emerging as recognition of the need for the regional cooperation for sustainable use of the shared land resources and sustainable urban development. There are a few examples of the interregional exchange of experiences; there is an obvious need in expanding the interregional cooperation.

The session will include presentations by representatives of the regional commissions, other regional organizations and national governments active in regional cooperation initiatives in different regions. They will present regional perspectives on land administration and management, information on regional initiatives for sustainable land governance and examples of interregional knowledge exchange. The session will outline possible avenues for the more active cooperation and exchanges of experiences in the future.

Speakers will be invited to answer to the following questions in their presentations:

1. Why is addressing land governance important in your region and what are the main benefits countries will derive from doing so?
2. Is there agreement among key stakeholders on this importance of land issues and need for change? What is the associated political economy (i.e. who would gain or lose from decisive action in this area)?
3. What are “quick wins/low-hanging fruits” where action could yield immediate benefits and that could therefore be used to get things moving; what are the areas where your region could most immediately benefit from other region's experience?

4. What are experience and practices for improving land governance in your region that will be useful to other regions?
5. What are key indicators that countries in your region could use to measure progress in improving land governance and demonstrate they are on the right track?

Agenda

Chair: Virginia Cram-Martos, Director, Trade, Economic Cooperation, and Land Management Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Presentations

Importance of the regional and interregional cooperation: Europe and Central Asia perspective
Gulnara Roll, UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, Geneva, Switzerland

Asia and the Pacific regional perspective –
Danilo Antonio, UN-Habitat (speaking on joint activities with UNESCAP)

Western Asia regional perspective – Mongi Bida, First Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) (will participate via teleconference); and Mahmoud Hesham El Burai, Director, Dubai Real Estate Institute, Dubai

Africa regional perspective - Joan Kagwanja, Chief, Land Policy Initiative, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

America regional perspective – Richard Huber, Principal Environmental Specialist, Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States

World Bank perspective for post 2015 land governance and cooperation with regional organizations – Klaus Deininger, the World Bank

Conclusions by Chair