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Oslo Governance Centre Workshop on *Land Governance and Emerging Development Agendas: Legal Empowerment, Climate Change and Food Security*

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Background

The workshop was organised by Oslo Governance Centre (OGC) for UNDP Bureau of Development Policy staff (Governance, Drylands, Legal Empowerment), selected Country Offices, and a number of external collaborators with the following objectives:

1. To explore the links between land governance and climate change, food security and legal empowerment of the poor
2. To stimulate interactions between country representatives, policy advisors and independent experts to strengthen UNDP country engagements
3. To provide OGC and DDC with feedback from the field on the challenges, needs and lessons that strengthen land based resource governance
4. To help TerrAfrica (TA) to identify and prioritise activities and entry points for land tenure at national and regional levels as well as to support efforts towards building coalitions, knowledge management and facilitating investments for up-scaling sustainable land management in Sub-Saharan Africa.

ILC members participating were IFPRI and RDI. Partners participating were UNDP-DDC and UNECA.

Findings

OGC Interest in democratic governance in land sector is to:

1. Support voice and accountability mechanisms to ensure pro-poor policy choices in land governance, and enhance associated budgeting, legal frameworks and enforcement, service delivery and quality.
2. Enhance the evidence base for pro-poor land governance and empower stakeholders to implement it.

The workshop was oriented around three emerging agendas driving UNDP's work on land governance:

- food security
- climate change
- legal empowerment

The workshop did not reach specific conclusions on the way forward, but was instead a process of discussion on promoting pro-poor land governance in the context of these three emerging agendas. Two notable presentations are included as annexes: Asbjørn Eide, Chairman FAO panel of experts on ethics in food and agriculture, on *Human rights, development and agrofuel*; and Jun Borrás Canada Research Chair in Int'l Dev. Studies Saint Mary's University, Halifax, on *Key features of 'pro-poor' land policy & democratic land governance*.

Achievements of mission objectives

The mission objectives were:

1. Identify opportunities to strengthen collaboration with OGC and the wider UNDP system on the Commercial Pressures on Land Initiative, the Land Reporting Initiative, and possible initiatives on legal empowerment.
2. Identify possible follow-up activities to publication of UN-CSO Guidelines
3. Develop links with TerrAfrica on land management in Africa
4. To develop a clear understanding with Norad on next steps with ILC's proposal for funding

Identify opportunities to strengthen collaboration with OGC and the wider UNDP system on the Commercial Pressures on Land Initiative, the Land Reporting Initiative, and possible initiatives on legal empowerment

UNDP-OGC's relevant new initiative in this regard is the Governance Assessment Project. This has been adopted at a high level, being a strategic corporate output for UNDP. It represents a move away from donor-led governance assessments using northern-derived indicators. It instead involves facilitating governance assessments at national levels led internally by multi-stakeholder teams on issues defined nationally as priority. This methodology is expected to enhance the democratic ownership of governance assessments.

The project document has been developed. OGC is currently fundraising to pilot in 10 countries, including Angola, Malawi, Senegal, Indonesia and Nigeria. Regional bureaus are involved in the project development. It also envisages a global platform for sharing experiences etc, and a web-based portal for exchange.

This initiative is likely to be more interesting to ILC members in its innovative methodology rather than in the substance of assessments. Although priorities for assessment will be defined at country level, the focus is likely to be on processes and institutional building rather than land itself.

There was also consensus between ILC, OGC and DDC to steer away from HDI approach to land indicators, but rather look for opportunities to get issues of land governance into wider UNDP platforms. For example, advocating for a chapter on land governance in a Human Development Report would be preferable to attempting to integrate an indicator on land in the HDI or similar index.

Opportunities will be explored further during OGC's participation in the LRI workshop 8-9 December.

Identify possible follow-up activities to publication of UN-CSO Guidelines

A pre-publication draft of the guidelines prepared by ILC on *Experiences, Challenges and Opportunities: Collaboration for pro-poor land governance – United Nations and Civil Society Organisations* was presented and highlights explained. This has potential as an important resource in encouraging and facilitating greater involvement by civil society in upcoming UNDP initiatives. It can also be used in wider contexts by ILC members. It is expected to be published by end of 2008.

Develop links with Terrafrica on land management in Africa

Terrafrica www.terrafrica.org is a partnership between GEF, Multilateral agencies, Governments and Bilateral donors to systematise sustainable land management efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa. Its three objectives are to:

1. build partnerships at country and regional levels
2. knowledge management
3. mobilising finance for upscaling (core funding is USD150million under GEF IV)

The Terrafrica secretariat is based at NEPAD. It is currently supporting development of sustainable land management programmes with pilots in Mali, Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia.

As a partnership, the following agencies are taking the lead role in different aspects of Terrafrica operations:

- CSO integration - UNDP
- Climate Change - WB
- Knowledge management - FAO
- M&E - UNEP
- Land tenure - UNDP

In support of these mandates, some organisations are setting up Special Advisory Groups (SAGs), including UNDP on land tenure. The objective of the land tenure SAG is to identify how GEF projects can better engage with tenure issues. GEF's orientation on global benefits has sidelined tenure issues as a national question. The failure to adequately address tenure issues has been identified as a weakness of Terrafrica initiatives. The SAG is being initially set up initially to advise UNDP, but ultimately to respond to wider partnership members of Terrafrica. Potentially, the SAG is a vehicle to influence GEF projects by introducing an imperative to consider land tenure issues and other UNDP land and Natural Resource related projects.

ILC was invited to become a member of the Land tenure SAG. TORs will be produced shortly and will be forwarded to the ILC secretariat.

To develop a clear understanding with Norad on next steps with ILC's proposal for funding

See separate Note to File.

Attachments:

1. Workshop programme
2. M Taylor presentation
3. Asbjørn Eide presentation
4. Jun Borrás presentation