Harnessing the SDGs to Secure Women’s Rights to Land

The 2030 Agenda offers a unique opportunity for advancing women’s land rights. Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender equality) openly recognizes that strengthening women’s ownership and control over land is a way to empower them and contribute to eradicating poverty and hunger.

Land is a key economic resource as it is inextricably linked with access to, use of and control over other economic resources: it is a key input for agriculture, it can be used as collateral to access credit and extension services, and it can generate income directly, if rented or sold. Secure control and ownership of land contributes to women’s empowerment, increasing their bargaining power within the household and improving their chances of accessing a wide variety of economic opportunities.

However, women are still significantly disadvantaged in all land rights, compared to men. Less than 15% of landholders around the world are women and the share of women landowners ranges from around 20% to slightly over 50% in Honduras and Malawi, respectively. Women also on average own a smaller share of all agricultural land compared to men, which prevents them from making an income from agriculture and feeding their families.

As the designated custodian for the two indicators under SDG Target 5a, FAO has developed a methodology to support countries in monitoring and reporting on progress in the status of women’s land rights protection. Progress in Target 5.a is measured through two land related indicators (5.a.1 and 5.a.2) that focus on ownership and/or control over land. The first indicator captures the actual status of women’s and men’s land rights and tenure security and the second one examines the adoption of legal reforms to promote women’s land rights.

The event “Harnessing the SDGs to Secure Women’s Rights to Land” will foster dialogue on advancing and strengthening women’s land rights. It will also give an overview of the SDG indicator 5.a.2 and the methodology.
Programme

13.15 - 13.25
Welcome
Carla Mucavi, Director Liaison Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in New York

Opening remarks
Sylvie Durrer, Director of the Swiss Federal Office for Gender Equality

13.25 - 13.35
Key note speech
HE Madam Inonge Mutukwa Wina, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia

13.35 - 14.05
Round table - Initiatives for securing women’s land rights CEDAW
- Mariella Mazzoti, Director of the Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres, Uruguay (tbc)
- Joan Cuka Kagwanja, Chief of the African Land Policy Centre
- Cristina Timponi Cambiaghi, Thematic and Global Policy Coordination Manager International Land Coalition (ILC)
- Martha Osorio, Gender and Development Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

14.05 - 14.25
Plenary discussion
- Maria Graterol, Board member, International Women’s Rights Action Asia Pacific (IWRAW Asia Pacific)
- All presenters and participating government representatives

MODERATOR
Carla Mucavi, Director, Liaison Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in New York