



# Land and Poverty Conference 2016

## Scaling up Responsible Land Governance

14-18 March, 2016 | Washington, DC

# SOLUTIONS AT SCALE: OVERCOMING LAND AS A DRIVER OF CONFLICT AND BOTTLENECK TO RECOVERY

**Ombretta Tempra, UN-Habitat / GLTN**

**FILIEP DECORTE, UN-Habitat**

**CLARISSA AUGUSTINUS, independent consultant**

**OUMAR SYLLA, UN-Habitat / GLTN**

**FRANCESCA MARZATICO, UN-Habitat / GLTN**

# CONTENT

1. The rationale
2. The process so far
3. Aligning with UN Reforms
4. Key findings
5. Vision going forward
6. Recommendations

# THE RATIONALE

1. Member states and UN staff are concerned that land is increasingly becoming a trigger for conflict, or re-lapse into conflict, and a bottleneck to recovery.
2. This will be made worse in the coming decades because of population growth, urbanisation, increasing food insecurity and climate change, which will result in even more competition over land and land related resources.
3. The UN system is not considered to be fit for the purpose of supporting Member States and the international community to address these challenges.
4. The UN needs to re-think its engagement on land and conflict, clarify roles and build capacities where they are needed, particularly as “sustaining peace” is a core business of the UN system.

# THE RATIONALE

This paper presents the vision going forward, the results and the recommendations contained in the “Scoping and Status Study on Land and conflict” (F. Decorte and C. Augustinus)

This analysis also serves as the basis for the preparation of a Secretary General Guidance Note on Land and Conflict, now under development.

# THE PROCESS SO FAR / 1

- April 2014 **initial meeting**:
  - ✓ Global challenges: increased competition and conflict over land
  - ✓ UN needs to be Fit for Purpose to support Member States
- Request to UN-Habitat / GLTN from the Rule of Law Unit SG office for **SG Guidance Note Land and Conflict**
- **Bilateral interviews, desk-based review + focus group discussions** (18 UN agencies)
- **The Study was developed.** It is a functional analysis focusing on how 'land and conflict' issues are aligned across the UN (not substance)
- Focus Group in October 2014 on early results
- July 2015: alignment of report to UN reform processes

# THE PROCESS SO FAR / 2

- **September 2015: Focus Group: expected outcomes**
  1. Feedback on the Draft Scoping Study in view of preparing an Advanced Draft
  2. Feedback on way forward / road map
  3. Clarity on way forward with SG Guidance note on land and conflict: purpose and components
- Scoping study was **presented** to the **Land and Conflict Coalition** - composed by UN and non-UN partners (November 2015 and March 2016).

# ALIGNING WITH UN REFORM:

**The review of the Peace Operations and Peace Building Architecture, the implementation of security council resolution 1325 and the upcoming WHS**

## **Key elements / hooks**

- Context of global challenges
- Increased focus on shared root cause analysis as basis for shared vision and strategy
- Integration across UN pillars
- Need for continuum of responses throughout the conflict-cycle / peacemaking
- Sustained political solutions and building political foundations
- Fit for Purpose + partnership / mechanisms across UN and outside

## Key elements / hooks (continuation)

- Increased focus on prevention and mediation
- Need for more inclusive processes involving both / all parties to the conflict, communities, civil society
- Building capacity – within UN, regional, national
- Fit for Purpose + partnership / mechanisms across UN and outside

# KEY FINDINGS 1/

**Land is being dealt with by many UN agencies across the peace, security, humanitarian and development work of the UN wide system.**

- A vast range of functions are being undertaken when viewed through a land lens: coordination, advocacy around mass forced displacement, peacekeeping, political missions, UNCT programming, knowledge products and tools, TA
- Land not always in the mandate of the entity but is being addressed because it is a trigger for conflict and a block to development.
- Limited number of UN entities with specialised land expertise

# KEY FINDINGS /2

## **Multiple entry points for improved coherence, coordination and effectiveness**

- Coordination mechanisms
- Integrated support services and joint programmes
- Tools for shared analysis and programming

# KEY FINDINGS /3

## Shared observations to guide change management

- Consensus across the UN pillars that land is often a structural driver of conflict and bottleneck to recovery
- Lack of sharing land information (across pillars / time)
- Fragmented engagement on land and conflict
- Conflict analysis should become more shared and include land
- Building on existing dispute resolution approaches to create a more coherent framework
- Land issues related to displacement require more solutions oriented approaches aligned across UN pillars
- Insufficient accessible and predictable capacity
- Disconnect between technical workstreams and political roles and responsibilities and lack of hand over
- Need for improved funding mechanisms to support sustained engagement on land > peace making

# VISION GOING FORWARD

- Use land and conflict as a lever of change to support UN reform process
- Create a Land and Conflict issue based coalition across UN system (and beyond)
- Fit for Purpose Land Administration game changer
- Continuum of land rights (GLTN), range of rights (AU), legitimate rights (FAO) – game changer for quick delivery urban and rural
- Have the policies and international conventions now need to implement
- Entry points for implementation at country level across the full range of UN pillars: 5 work streams
  - Land policy
  - Land administration
  - Dispute resolution
  - Land redistribution
  - Capacity development

# RECOMMENDATIONS / 1

- Understand land and conflict in relation to global drivers of change on population growth, climate change, food security, urbanization, not just local phenomena
- Incremental and catalytic change model linked to broader UN Reform
- Start from existing policy frameworks / resolutions
- Adopt Fit for Purpose land administration and continuum of land rights approach for a sustained, coherent and quicker delivery
- Use SG Guidance Note on land & conflict to create a common basis, purpose and support for change process within UN system

# RECOMMENDATIONS / 2

- Use key following key levers to make UN better able to address land and conflict at scale:
  1. Conflict prevention, mediation & peace agreements as entry points for coordination
  2. Common & shared analysis of land as root cause, driver of conflict and bottleneck to development
  3. Develop land capacity across UN system in a sustained manner
  4. Prioritise coordinated solutions oriented approach for displacement
  5. Identify priorities for UN to strengthen the role of women in sustaining peace in relation to land and conflict
- Create a platform of partners, including UN and non- UN entities for land related functions and to implement change
- Agree of a road map, champions and UN mechanisms to lead further change

**SOLUTIONS AT SCALE: OVERCOMING LAND AS A DRIVER OF CONFLICT  
AND BOTTLENECK TO RECOVERY**

**NEED TO KNOW MORE?**

Ombretta Tempra  
Ombretta.tempra@unhabitat.org  
[www.gltm.net](http://www.gltm.net)