



19 June 2015

## Development by people and not just for people

Recommendations on land and natural resources rights and management for the Zero Draft of the Outcome Document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda

As organizations working on food security, land rights, natural resources management and poverty eradication, we welcome the release of the Zero Draft Declaration and call on Member States to embrace an aspirational vision that reflects the ambition of the goals and targets. In particular, we strongly encourage governments to keep the profile of land and natural resources high in the agenda, particularly under Targets 1.4, 2.3, 5.a, and 11.1. Secure and equitable land rights for women, men, indigenous peoples and local communities are an essential element of an Agenda that seeks to be people-centred and planet sensitive.

We recall the international consensus governments have already reached on this subject, particularly with the 2012 Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security, agreed by 193 countries. We are guided by the principle of leaving no one behind, as stressed by the UN Secretary General’s report “The Road to Dignity by 2030”.

We recommend the following:

### 1. To recognize the agency of people as the centre of the Agenda

The poorest and most marginalized should not only be seen as people whose needs should be taken into account and who should be visible through data collection and disaggregation, but also as development actors and change agents in their own right. This understanding is required to ensure that the new agenda is based on human rights, and that national strategies and various partnerships put people first.

Current text	Amendment
37. We emphasize more generally the critical importance of engaging all relevant stakeholders in implementation of the new Agenda. Governments and public institutions will work closely in this	37. We emphasize more generally the critical importance of engaging all relevant <b>rights-holders</b> <b>and</b> stakeholders in implementation of the new Agenda. Governments and public institutions <b>will</b>

<p>regard with national parliaments, local authorities, international institutions, business and the private sector, civil society, academia, philanthropic organizations, voluntary groups and others.</p>	<p><b>create adequate space to ensure safe, responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making over national development strategies, whilst supporting and promoting citizen-led and bottom-up initiatives by local communities, with a special emphasis on women, and marginalized sectors of society in vulnerable conditions. Governments and public institutions</b> will work closely <del>in this regard in the</del> <b>implementation of the Agenda</b> with national parliaments, local authorities, international institutions, business and the private sector, civil society, <b>indigenous peoples' own institutions</b>, academia, philanthropic organizations, <b>social movements</b>, voluntary groups and others,</p>
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## 2. To ensure the application of FPIC, as a safeguard against “wrong” development interventions

We affirm the need to strengthen the inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities in the Agenda, and to stand by the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

The respect and recognition of this principle was re-stated by governments in the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014 and by the UN Secretary General in January 2015, and is consistent with international benchmarks, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security.

This is critical to ensure that development strategies respond to people’s needs, avoid devastating consequences on local communities, and are aligned with human rights and a principle of non-discrimination. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be realized without engaging people in ways that give them ownership over their achievement.

Current text	Amendment
<p>17. This is an Agenda which encompasses all human rights and will promote dignity for all human beings. It will work to ensure that fundamental rights and freedoms are enjoyed by all without discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, culture, migratory status, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic situation, birth or disability.</p>	<p>17. This is an Agenda which encompasses all human rights and will promote dignity for all human beings. It will work to ensure that fundamental rights and freedoms are enjoyed by all without discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, culture, migratory status, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic situation, birth or disability. <b>The Agenda will serve as an action plan for people and by people, and will respect the principle of free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities over their land and natural resources, in line with international human rights law.</b></p>

### 3. To promote the highest international standards in the work of IFIs

We encourage governments to promote the highest international standards in the work of the international financial institutions (IFIs), including by promoting the development and implementation of environmental and social safeguards. This is critical to ensure the right incentives are in place to promote a race to the top when it comes to ensuring environmental and social outcomes of development interventions.

Current text	Amendment
<p>35. We acknowledge the need for international financial institutions to respect the domestic policy space of all countries, in particular developing countries and least developed countries. We agree to work to increase the representation of developing countries, and their involvement in decision making, in these institutions.</p>	<p>35. We acknowledge the need for international financial institutions to respect the domestic policy <b>and fiscal space</b> of all countries, in particular developing countries and least developed countries <b>without compromising the implementation of the highest standards on environmental and social safeguards</b>. We agree to work to increase the representation of developing countries, and their involvement in decision making, in these institutions.</p>

### 4. To advance secure and equitable land rights for women, men, indigenous peoples and local communities

The Post-2015 Agenda must address the structural factors that undermine sustainable development for all. Land rights empower people and enhance their sense of dignity and belonging. They enhance food security and are fundamental to achieve the right to food and increase the productivity of small-scale farmers. They provide an incentive for ecosystem stewardship, promote inclusive and equitable societies whilst underpinning cultures and value systems, and empower women socially and economically. The recognition of customary land rights is imperative in ending poverty and hunger amongst the most vulnerable communities in the world, particularly indigenous peoples.

Efforts to achieve sustainable development for all must therefore consider and monitor rights to land and natural resources as a priority.

Current text	Amendment
<p>18. Working for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets. The achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full rights and opportunities. This is also a basic issue of human rights. Women and girls must enjoy equal access to</p>	<p>18. Working for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets. The achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full rights and opportunities. This is also a basic issue of human rights. <b>To realize the rights of women and girls,</b></p>

<p>education and equal opportunities for employment with men and boys. All forms of gender inequality, gender-based discrimination and violence against women and children, both boys and girls, will be combatted.</p>	<p><b>fundamental changes are required.</b> Women and girls must enjoy equal access to education, <b>services, decision-making, secure and equitable tenure rights,</b> and equal opportunities for employment with men and boys. All forms of gender inequality, gender-based discrimination and violence against women and children, both boys and girls, will be combatted.</p>
<p>24. We will seek to build strong economic foundations for all our countries. Sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential for prosperity. We will work to build dynamic, sustainable and people-centred economies, promoting youth employment in particular and decent work for all. All countries stand to benefit from having a healthy and well-educated workforce with the knowledge and skills needed for productive and fulfilling work and full participation in society. We will therefore adopt policies which increase productivity and productive employment, financial inclusion, agricultural and industrial development, sustainable [...]</p>	<p>24. <b>We commit to eradicating poverty and hunger once and for all.</b> We will seek to build strong economic foundations for all our countries. Sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential for prosperity. <b>We will work to ensure secure and equitable tenure rights for women, men, indigenous peoples and local communities, to promote inclusive and human rights-based development paths.</b> We will work to build dynamic, <b>equitable,</b> sustainable and people-centred economies, promoting youth employment in particular and decent work for all, <b>including by supporting diverse local economies and traditional occupations.</b> All countries stand to benefit from having a healthy and well-educated workforce with the knowledge and skills needed for productive and fulfilling work and full participation in society. We will therefore adopt policies which increase productivity and productive employment, financial inclusion, agricultural and industrial development, sustainable [...]</p>
<p>26. We recognize that sustainable urban development and management are crucial to the quality of life of our people. We will work with local authorities and communities to renew and plan our cities so as to foster community cohesion and personal security and to stimulate innovation and employment. We will reduce the negative impacts of urban activities, including through the safe management and use of chemicals, the reduction and recycling of waste and more efficient use of water and energy. And we will work to minimize the impact of cities on the global climate system.</p>	<p>“We recognize that sustainable urban development and management are crucial to the quality of life of our people. We will work with local authorities and communities to renew and plan our cities so as to foster community cohesion and personal security, <b>improve human settlements, including a focus on security of tenure,</b> and <del>to</del> stimulate innovation and employment. We will reduce the negative impacts of urban activities, including through the safe management and use of chemicals, the reduction and recycling of waste and more efficient use of water and energy. And we will work to minimize the impact of cities on the global climate system.”</p>
<p>33. We recognize the central role that science, technology and innovation play in enabling the international community to respond to sustainable development challenges. We recognize the power of communications technologies, technical cooperation</p>	<p>33. We recognize the central role that science, technology and innovation play in enabling the international community to respond to sustainable development challenges, <b>and the value of evidence-based traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities in the</b></p>

<p>and capacity-building for sustainable development.</p>	<p><b>protection of our planet and its biodiversity.</b> We recognize the power of communications technologies, technical cooperation and capacity-building for sustainable development.</p>
<p>39. We look forward to the development of indicators to assist this work. Quality disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress. We agree to intensify our efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, particularly least developed countries and other countries in special situations. We also commit to scaling up substantially public-private cooperation to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including geo-spatial information, in supporting and tracking progress.</p>	<p>39. We look forward to the development of indicators to assist this work <b>and match the ambitions of this Agenda, which cannot be limited to data that are currently available. Quality primary, representative and</b> disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress. We agree to intensify our efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, particularly least developed countries and other countries in special situations. We also commit to scaling up substantially public-private cooperation to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including geo-spatial information, in supporting and tracking progress, <b>including by enhancing participatory community-based monitoring and information systems.</b></p>

### Information and contact

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This technical briefing has been prepared by Action Aid International, the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), Forest Peoples Program, Huairou Commission, the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Study (IASS), the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), Habitat for Humanity International, Landesa, Namati, Oxfam International and Redes Chaco.