

Include "Secure Rights to Land for Women and Men" in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

We urge those who are shaping and determining the post-2015 development agenda to include targets on secure rights to land for women and men as an effective and cross-cutting foundation that can simultaneously address several of the proposed goals: eradicating poverty, improving food security, empowering women, reducing gender inequalities and building more inclusive cities.

The importance of secure rights to land for women and men is backed by research, has been recognized by stakeholders across different sectors, including government, civil society, technical groups, and businesses, and is reflected on key post-2015 documents such as the High-Level Panel Post-2015 Report, all the recent documents of the Open Working Group (including its June 2 proposal), and the indicators proposed by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

To be effective, it is important that the targets:

Explicitly mention land. Among asset types, land has a strong and fundamental linkage to multiple dimensions of poverty – economic, political, social and nutritional—and plays a key role in determining access to income, wealth, food, housing, government services, and household- and community-level decision making. Targets that explicitly mention land are essential to galvanize global action around an issue that is increasingly recognized.

Explicitly mention women. To realize their full, transformative potential, women, as well as men, must hold secure land rights. Research from the World Bank, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the OECD Development Centre, civil society organizations, and academic institutions, shows that strengthening land rights for women promotes greater realization of development objectives. Targets that explicitly mention women have a built-in safety guard to ensure that this ambitious development agenda does not leave women behind, unintentionally exacerbating the gender asset gap and undermining governments' ability to meet the globally agreed upon goals.

Refer to "secure rights" to land. To guarantee and protect a number of tenure arrangements—whose nature and prevalence can vary across the globe—it is important that we do not limit the scope of this agenda to "access" or to the right to "own". Instead, targets and indicators should reflect a range of rights that can include the rights to use, control, own, rent, lease, mortgage, exclude, inherit and otherwise make decisions about land. To be effective, these rights need to be recognized and protected, legally and in practice.

In light of this, we applaud the work of the Open Working Group and, as targets are reworded and prioritized, **we urge that the OWG:**

- **amend the current wording of the OWG's proposed targets** with simple suggestions listed on the back of this document; and,
- **ensure that women's and men's secure rights to land remain a key part of the post-2015 development agenda by:**
 - a) retaining the land-related target, as amended below, under the poverty goal (Goal #1); or,
 - b) ensuring comprehensive coverage by including the land-related targets, as amended, under the food security, gender equality, and inclusive cities goals (Goals #2, 5, and 11, respectively).

Proposal of the OWG – June 2, 2014**Suggested Amendments**

Proposed Goal 1

End Poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Proposed Target 1.5

By 2030 ensure development opportunities for all men and women, including secure rights to own land, property and other productive resources, and access to financial services, with particular focus on the poor, the most marginalized and people in vulnerable situations.

By 2030 ensure development opportunities for all men and women, including secure rights to ~~own~~ land, property and other productive resources, and access to financial services, with particular focus on the poor, the most marginalized and people in vulnerable situations.

Proposed Goal 2

End hunger, achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all, and promote sustainable agriculture.

Proposed Target 2.4

By 2030 achieve access to adequate inputs, knowledge and productive resources, financial services and markets, especially for small and family farmers, pastoralists, and fishers, with a particular focus on women.

By 2030 achieve **secure rights to land, property and other productive resources**, access to adequate inputs, knowledge ~~and productive resources~~, financial services and markets, **for all women and men**, especially for small and family farmers, pastoralists, and fishers, ~~with a particular focus on women~~.

Proposed Goal 5

Attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere.

Proposed Target 5.7

Ensure women's equal access to, control and ownership of assets, and natural and other productive resources, as well as non-discriminatory access to essential services and infrastructure, including financial services and ICT.

Ensure women's **realize, on an equal basis with men, secure rights to land, property and other productive resources**; ~~equal~~ access to, control and ownership of assets; ~~and natural and other productive resources as well as non-discriminatory~~ **and** access to essential services and infrastructure, including financial services and ICT.

Proposed Goal 11

Build inclusive, safe and sustainable cities and human settlements.

Proposed Target 11.4

By 2030, ensure universal access to adequate and affordable housing and basic services for all, and eliminate slum-like conditions everywhere.

By 2030, ensure **secure rights to land** and ~~universal~~ access to adequate and affordable housing and basic services for **all women and men**, and eliminate slum-like conditions everywhere.
