

## Call for Expression of Interest to host the second Arab Land Conference

### **Guidelines for Hosting the Conference**

#### **Background**

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##### **The Arab Land Initiative**

Experts from different national and international organisations working in the Arab region came together in 2016 to assess the importance of good land governance, land management and land administration for the sustainable and inclusive social and economic development of Arab countries.

An Arab Land Initiative was established with a shared vision: *“All the people in the Arab countries enjoy equal and affordable access to land, peace, stability and economic growth, to be achieved with good land policies and transparent, efficient and affordable land administration systems”*.

Some of the most important themes identified were: Land and conflict (incl. land disputes resolution, displacement etc.); Fit for purpose land administration; Women access to land; Management of public land; Land management for sustainable and inclusive investments and real estate development; and Land, environment and climate change. Knowledge creation and sharing, capacity development and increased collaboration among stakeholders in the region were identified as key priorities to achieve the shared vision and tackle the technical areas requiring attention. The establishment of a bi-annual Arab Land Conference was identified as an important milestone.

##### **The first Arab Land Conference**

Hosted by the Emirate of Dubai, UAE, the First Arab Land Conference took place on the 26-28 February 2018 and was co-organised by the Dubai Land Department, the Global Land Tool Network, UN-Habitat, the World Bank, the League of Arab States and the Arab Union of Surveyors, and was attended by a diverse audience composed by government delegations, land professionals, academia, civil society, private sector, real estate developers and international organisations. The conference's sessions tackled land issues in the Arab states from new and diverse perspectives.

Three key topics highlighted in the conference were: (1) Access to land for sustainable business and investment; (2) Land and Conflict; and (3) Women access to land. Technical sessions looked at additional issues, such as: housing policy and land management, education and capacity development, protection of land and property rights of displaced people and refugees, new technologies to support land and real estate registration systems, and land indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals and their applications. More information about the conference can be found at <https://arabstates.gltn.net/>

##### **The Steps Towards the Second Arab Land Conference**

A declaration emerged from the First Arab Land Conference, paving the road for future collaborative action on land governance and land administration in the Arab countries. It was agreed by the main organizers (the Global Land Tool Network, UN-Habitat, the World Bank and the Dubai Land Department) in consultation with relevant International and Arab land actors to continue this effort by promoting and deepening knowledge sharing, join research, and capacity building among Arab States to further develop the land governance and real estate reform to benefit all the people of the Region. As an outcome of this initiative, the Arab Land Conference will be organized every two years and will be hosted by a different Arab country each time.

The secretariat for the Arab Land initiative, hosted in the interim by the Global Land Tool Network and composed by a multi-stakeholder team including the World Bank, the Dubai Land Department and additional members, will support the selection of the host of the Second Arab Land Conference and will support the organisation of the event.

## Hosting the Second Arab Land Conference

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These Guidelines aim at providing guidance to the governments / countries interested in hosting the next Arab Land Conference on:

1. requirements that the candidate needs to satisfy and
2. criteria that would be used to choose a host if more than one application is received.

### Requirements

Arab countries<sup>1</sup> submitting their interest in hosting the conference should be able to:

1. Confirm their interest to host the conference at the **ministerial level**, by sending a letter signed by a relevant Minister to the main conference organisers Global Land Tool Network /UN-Habitat and the World Bank;
2. Host the second Arab Land Conference in the October 2019 – June 2020 **period**;
3. Secure and finance a **suitable venue** for the **three/four-day event** that can host between 300 and 400 participants, be easily accessible from international airports and hotels, have plenary and breakout rooms, audio video systems, space for tea/coffee breaks and lunches, space for exhibiting publications and products;
4. Provide Arabic / English (at the minimum) or Arabic/English/French **simultaneous interpretation** services for all conference sessions;
5. **Sponsor the attendance** (travel and accommodation) of government delegations (and speakers/presenters to the extent possible).
6. Facilitate the issuing of **visas** for participants and presenters;
7. Create the second Arab Land Conference **website** in consultation with the conference's co-organizers and, through the web site, manage the online registration, paper submission, payments, issuing of communication, etc.
8. Host a **gala dinner** for the participants (optional).
9. Establish and finance a **conference organisation committee** (e.g. two people for 12 months) who will be working with the main conference organisers on the preparation of the event. This will include the booking and management of the venue, managing travel and accommodation of sponsored participants, support accommodation booking for other participants, organise registration for the conference and communication, coordinate private sponsorship contributions, prepare a logistic note for the event, print the support materials such as programme, briefing notes, posters, banners, etc.

### Selection criteria

If more than one application is received from Arab countries, the selection will be made by the main organisers of the first Arab Land Conference on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- a) Quality of the expression of Interest submitted (see below);
- b) Ability of the country to match the conference requirements outlined above;
- c) Ability of the host to facilitate visa for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

## Estimated facts and figures

To facilitate the countries to assess the implications for hosting the second Arab Land Conference, an estimation of the expected figures is below.

Between 300 and 400 participants	About 100 technical papers
Four high level sessions	10 to 15 technical sessions
200 m2 exhibition area	3 or 4 days as duration

## How to submit the Expression of Interest to host the Conference

Countries interested in hosting the second Arab Land Conference should submit a **letter** signed by a relevant Minister to the main conference organisers Global Land Tool Network /UN-Habitat and the World Bank<sup>2</sup>.

The letter should be accompanied by a **two-page concept note** providing information on how the country is planning to support the process, in accordance to the requirements stated in this document.

Expressions of interests should be received by the **31 December 2018**, to allow a decision to be made by the end of 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Letters and emails should be addressed to: (1) Oumar Sylla and Ombretta Tempra, Land and GLTN Unit of UN-Habitat [oumar.sylla@un.org](mailto:oumar.sylla@un.org) and [ombretta.tempra@un.org](mailto:ombretta.tempra@un.org); (2) Zena Ali Ahmad, Regional Director Arab States, UN-Habitat [zena.ali-ahmad@un.org](mailto:zena.ali-ahmad@un.org); and (3) Wael Zakout, Global Lead Land Policy and Geospatial, World Bank [wzakout@worldbank.org](mailto:wzakout@worldbank.org)