

CONCEPT NOTE

Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration System in the Arab region Expert Group Meeting (EGM)

In-person/online
18 -19 October 2021, Tunis, Tunisia

Background

The “Arab Region Programme on Good Land Governance in support of Inclusive Development, Peace and Stability” aims at achieving inclusive social and economic development – particularly for women, youth and displaced people – and fostering peace and stability by improving the capacity of regional and national stakeholders to manage land in the Arab States. The programme is being funded by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development-Germany (BMZ), a cabinet-level ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Programme aims at improving the capacity of regional and national stakeholders in the Arab region to manage and administer urban, peri-urban and rural land to achieve inclusive social and economic development – particularly for women, youth and displaced - and to foster peace and stability. The programme has four priorities: (1) Promote collaboration and coordination; (2) Develop and share knowledge; (3) Develop capacities of individuals and organisations; and (4) Support the implementation of existing land-related programmes and interventions in selected countries through the use of fit-for-purpose land tools and approaches.

UN-Habitat is the coordinating agency within the United Nations System for human settlement activities and in collaboration with governments is responsible for promoting and consolidating collaboration with all partners, including local authorities, private and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 11 of “*Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*”.

The Regional Center for Remote Sensing of North African States is a Centre for research and studies that aims to encourage the institutions in the northern African States for using remote sensing techniques and upstream systems in the areas of sustainable development and scientific research, also it encourages the technologies transfer and the Capacity building for the member states.

The UN-Habitat and CRTEAN have signed an Agreement of Cooperation in 2021 that will aim at discussing and showcasing the Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration principles and approaches used in the region and elsewhere, to allow the different stakeholders in the Arab countries to understand the overall Fit-For-Purpose land administration systems and assess the ones that can effectively be adapted to the region/countries. The agreed project will include an EGM and two training sessions.

Introduction

Globally, 75% of the world’s population lacks access to formal and documented land rights¹. As in many parts of the world, most of the countries in the Arab region struggle to put in place land registration/land administration systems that are pro-poor and that function at the national scale. Therefore, Fit- For-Purpose (FFP) land administration is emerging as an inclusive solution that meets the needs of all segment of society and incorporate essential component such as affordable, innovative, and sustainable method of land mapping, registration of land rights and titling which can address all land tenure types including informal tenure and in the context of recovery and reconstruction processes in post-conflict countries.

¹ FIG Guide No 60, Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration
<https://www.fig.net/resources/publications/figpub/pub60/figpub60.pdf>

The land registration/land administration systems in the Arabic countries have progressed over many centuries, incorporating laws of many other cultures and countries, mostly from the west. The growing influence of western legal systems and practices in the region varied. Therefore, the approach used for building land administration systems in the region should be going along with the modern and transformative era that the Arab region is going through in the last decades.

Fit-For-purpose (FFP) land administration is emerging as affordable, flexible, and focused on citizens' needs concept, such as providing security of tenure and control of land use, rather than focusing on pricey technical solutions. The (FFP) approach promoted by the GLTN and its partners, has interrelated core components: – Flexible in the spatial data capture approaches to provide for varying use and occupation. – Inclusive in scope to cover all tenure and all land. – Participatory in approach to data capture and use to ensure community support. – Affordable for the government to establish and operate, and for society to use. – Reliable in terms of information that is authoritative and up-to-date. – Attainable in relation to establishing the system within a short timeframe and within available resources. – Upgradeable with regard to incremental upgrading and improvement over time in response to social and legal needs and emerging economic opportunities.

The Expert group meeting aims at discussing and showcasing the 'Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration Principles and approaches used in the region and elsewhere, to allow the different stakeholders in the Arab countries to understand the overall Fit-For-Purpose land administration systems and asses the ones that can effectively adapted to the region/countries.

Objectives of the Meeting

The EGM's will be an open discussion and knowledge sharing about land administration, approach, guidelines, and tools to improve land administration within three frameworks; spatial, legal, and institutional. Also, it will be an opportunity to introduce and inform the land experts and other stakeholders from the Arab region and elsewhere about the FFP land administration approach and tools. The meeting will be also an opportunity to discuss the available data and the current status of the land management and administration system in the region with emphasizing its impact on the vulnerable groups and the development of the region.

Methodology

The EGM will be a 2 days event bringing together experts to discuss the land administration system in the Arab Region. The meeting will be guided by a moderator to tackle all the agenda outlines and to achieve the expected outcomes. The EGM includes presentations and will be enriched with case studies and best practices examples.

In preparation for the discussions, the selected presenters will be provided with some guidance to shape their presentations as a brief PowerPoint presentation format with the essential and adequate information on the EGM topic. The guidance will maximize the exchange of knowledge, information, and references that will feed into the preparation of the Expert group meeting report. A Facilitated group discussion will be conducted to help analyze the land management and administration systems in the different Arab countries and to identify priorities and adequate land management and administration tools for different contexts and country needs.

Key topics

1. The current situation of land governance and land administration system in the Arab region,
2. Understanding, building and implementing the Fit-For-Purpose land administration approach and framework.
3. The impact of the Fit-For-Purpose land administration systems on the security of Tenure for everyone and particularly on Women and vulnerable groups

The expected outcomes

1. Participants will come out with a road map for improving the land management system in the region, land tools using a pro-poor-systems and Fit-For- Purpose approach.
2. Identification of the main stakeholders and the experts in the field of land management,
3. Participants will have a better understanding of land administration frameworks; spatial, legal, and institutional.
4. Exchange of experiences among the participants on land administration and management systems in the region and discussing the priorities and adequate land management and administration tools for different contexts and country needs.

The Participants

The targeted group for the meeting will include; policymakers, legislation experts, land surveyors, private sector, land experts, Academia, Civil society organizations, UN agencies among other stakeholders that will be identified prior to the meeting. The expected participants will be around 20 to 25 participants in person from the Arab region and outside the region.

For online participation, please use the following link : <https://zoom.us/j/99790560193>

Logistics

The event will be for two days and will take place on 18 and 19 October 2021 in Tunis, Tunisia. Due to the COVID protocols and travel restrictions, we will also enable virtual attendance via zoom platform (the zoom Link will be shared at a further stage). If the COVID situation in Tunisia won't allow the organizer to conduct the event in person, then the overall expert group meeting will be conducted online. Information on this regard will be communicate prior to the event. The simultaneous translation in the 3 languages (Arabic, English, and French) will be provided in the venue as well as for the online participants. A logistic note will be developed and shared with the participants in the coming weeks.

Outline of the Agenda

EXPERT GROUP MEETING		
<u>Agenda of Day 1</u>		
Time (Tunisia, Local time)	Activity/Description	Speakers
9:00 – 9:30	Welcoming participants and opening remarks (15 min) Overview of agenda and online instructions (5 min) Participants' introduction and expectations (10 min)	CREATN, UN-Habitat/GLTN CRTEAN All Moderated by CRTEAN
Session 1		
Time	Topics Titles	Speakers
9:30 – 10:30	Land governance and introduction to the Arab Land Initiative approach and stream of work (20 min) Introduction to the CRTEAN and its vision to support arab countries on land administration (20 min) Q/A session (20 min)	UN-Habitat/GLTN CRTEAN All Participants Moderated by CRTEAN
10:30	Coffee Break	
10:50 – 13:00	Brief overview of Land Administration System (LAS) in selected Arab countries (15 min) North Africa Gulf Region Middle East Q/A session (30min)	To be Identified (prior to the meeting) All Participants Moderated by CRTEAN
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
Session 2		
Time	Topics Titles	Speakers
14:00 – 16:00	Understanding Fit-For-Purpose (FFP) concept (20min) Building the Fit-For-Purpose land administration frameworks (20min) Implementing the Fit-For-Purpose approach (20min) Q/A session (30min)	UN-Habitat/GLTN

16:00 -16:15	Coffee Break	
16:15 -17:00	Open discussion	All Participants Moderated by CRTEAN
17:00	Closing of day1	

EXPERT GROUP MEETING Agenda of Day 2		
(Tunisia, Local time)	Activity/Description	Speakers
9:00 – 9:15	Recap of day 1 and agenda overview (5 min) Comments and reflections from participants on day1 (10 min)	CRTEAN All Participants Moderated by CRTEAN
Session 3		
Time	Topics Titles	Speakers
9:15 – 10:45	Fit-For-Purpose land administration tools Social Tenure Domain Model Q/A session (30min)	CRTEAN Moderated by CRTEAN
10:45-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 13:00	Drones in support of Open Spatial Data collection for land management related applications (20 min) Capacity building for land-based data entry tools (20 min) Local knowledge and crowd mapping in support of land rights (20 min) Q/A session (30min)	UN-Habitat/GLTN
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
Session 4		
14:30-16:00	Group Exercise: Identification of the FFP Land administration tools that need to be included in the coming training	All Participants Moderated by CRTEAN
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee Break	
16:15 – 17:00	Open discussion and reflecting on the way forward Closing remarks	All Participants CRTEAN, UN-Habitat/GTLN
17:00	Closing of day2	