

Brief Report About :

Expert Group Meeting on "Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration System in the Arab region "

The Regional Center for Remote Sensing of North African States (CRTEAN) in partnership with UN-Habitat, the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development-Germany (BMZ) organized the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration System in the Arab region in Tunis on 18–19 October 2021 in both in-person and virtual attendance. Thirty-six (36) representatives of policymakers, legislation experts, land surveyors, private sector, land evaluation experts, Academia, Civil society organizations, UN agencies local and regional stakeholders from eleven (11) countries of the NE/NA region took part in this event.

The EGM focused on the following 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 EGM was an opportunity for 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.

During the two-day event, the EGM was an open discussion and knowledge sharing about land administration, approach, guidelines, and tools to improve land administration within three frameworks; spatial, legal, and institutional. In addition, it was 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 was 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.

The organization of the EGM followed a curriculum of topics ordered in four thematic sessions. It includes presentations, case studies and best practices examples.

The first thematic session focused on Land governance and on introduction to the Arab Land Initiative approach and stream of work, on understanding the Fit-For-Purpose (FFP) concept, on implementing the Fit-For-Purpose approach and finally on a brief overview of Land Administration System (LAS) in selected Arab countries in Middle East and Gulf Region. The second session focused also on a brief overview of Land Administration System (LAS) in selected countries in North Africa. During the third session, the participants have followed presentations on Fit-For-Purpose Land administration tools, on Drones in support of Open Spatial Data collection and on Capacity building for land-based data entry tools and finally on Local knowledge and crowd mapping in support of land rights. At the end of this session, the participants took part in a Group Exercise on identification of the FFP Land administration approach for the country, topics for training, activities to promote to advance the implementation of FFP land administration and expectations on benefit, tools and technical support. During the last session, participants reported a set of important recommendations to consider by GLTN/UN-Habitat and CRTEAN when reflecting on the way forward.

The EGM proved to be a very successful event, able to bring together a very diverse range of land sector stakeholders from the Arab region to debate and pave the way forward about priority for land administration.