



**CFS Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines (VG) for the  
Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National  
Food Security**

**Update on the work of the Language Harmonization Group  
Dr. Gregory Myers, Chair of The Open-Ended Working Group – VG  
And  
Michael Windfuhr, FOC, Language Harmonization Group  
January 23, 2012**

The purpose of this letter is to advise Members and Participants about the work of the Language Harmonization Group (LHG).

In December 2011, Members and Participants were asked to provide input on the two annexes (Glossary and International Instruments), which the LHG has been working on under direction from the Open Ended Working Group following the negotiations in October. In addition, the LHG has been working with the FAO Secretariat and the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights to define terms and verify internationally accepted usage.

The LHG has produced two new drafts for each annex. With regard to Annex I: the Glossary, please note in December Members and Participants were invited to send recommendations for adding or deleting terms. Following this, the LHG worked with FAO and the OHCHR to define terms. This revised Glossary is attached. The Glossary includes a brief statement from the FOC for the LHG on the methodology for selecting the definitions. Following this statement, you will find the Glossary.

With regard to Annex II: International and regional human rights instruments relevant to the governance of tenure, the LHG worked with the FAO and OHCHR Secretariats to revise the organization of the annex and the instruments that are included. As with Annex I, Annex II begins with a brief explanation of methodology.

Members and Participants are encouraged to review both annexes, and submit any comments to the LHG before February 11, 2012. This would allow the two secretariats and the FOC for the Language Harmonization Group an opportunity to revise and submit an updated draft of the

annexes for one last round of input before the start of the negotiations of the OEWG in March. Comments should be submitted to the LHG via the email address set up by the FAO:  
[VG-Tenure@fao.org](mailto:VG-Tenure@fao.org)

Finally, please note that the Chair of the OEWG will be posting a letter on the process for March negotiations on the CFS and Perm Rep websites in the next week.

Thank you,

Gregory Myers  
Michael Windfuhr