



Policy Roundtable on land Tenure and International Investment in Agriculture

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Background

Widespread support for three proposals in the Paper:

- “Endorsing the on-going inclusive process of development of the “Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Other Natural Resources” ...
- Endorsing the on-going elaboration of “Principles for Responsible Agribusiness Investment that Respect Rights, Livelihoods and Resources” ...
- Urging FAO and the other international organizations involved to continue ensuring the consistency and complementarity between the two processes ...”



Background

- Recognition of the need to more explicitly link the RAI Principles and the Voluntary Guidelines to other international guidance and standards (e.g., OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; Africa Union Land Policy Guidelines; Minimum Principles and Measures to Address the Human Rights Challenge, ICAARD Declaration, the basic ILO Conventions, instruments combating bribery)



Background

- Recognition that investment in agriculture is necessary to meet food security, and call for recognition of alternative strategies other than just land acquisition for achieving greater food security (such as out grower schemes, moratorium on investment or other upstream/downstream investments).
- A need to recognize economic, environmental and social differences across regions.



Background

- Need for technical capacity to improve governance of land rights.
- Need for better integration of actions to address land issues and particularly land tenure in development cooperation programs.
- Need to focus on food security when talking about investment in land;
- Need to find ways to encourage investment in agriculture that will maximize benefits and reduce risks.



Background

- Need for more data and better analysis (e.g., patterns of land acquisition and investment; drivers and impacts of increased investment); more inclusive discussion by member states, private sectors interests, indigenous people and affected farmers.
- Need for better governance on all sides, including investors and host governments when land acquisition takes place.
 - Universal support for defining and protecting rights of existing land users, including those of indigenous people, women, pastoralists and rights held under customary tenure; some called for “stabilization of land rights” prior to investment.

Based on the discussions held at the policy roundtable on land tenure and international investment in agriculture, the Committee could pursue the following recommendations, accounting for the relevant background notes presented



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Recommendation 1:

Encourage the continuation of the inclusive process of development of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Other Natural Resources, with a view to submitting the Guidelines to the approval of the 37th session of the CFS, following a process of review of the Guidelines by an open-ended intergovernmental working group.



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Recommendation 2:

Endorse the on-going elaboration of the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment that Respect Rights, Livelihoods and Resources



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Recommendation 3:

Urge the stakeholders involved in the drafting process of both the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Other Natural Resources and of the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment that Respect Rights, Livelihoods and Resources to ensure consistency and complementarity between the two processes, inter alia by a specific reference in Principle 1 of the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment to the Voluntary Guidelines as concerns the protection of the rights of landusers and the need to ensure equitable access to land



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Recommendation 4:

Request from the High-Level Panel of Experts that it provides the CFS with further analysis on:

- the respective roles of large-scale plantations and of small-scale farming, including economic, social, gender and environmental impacts
- review of the existing tools allowing the mapping of available land
- Comparative analysis of fiscal tools to align large scale investments with country food security strategies



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Recommendation 5:

Encourage member state support for capacity building toward effectively addressing land governance