



# Legal Office

## Land

The Legal Office advises on the drafting of Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other Natural Resources, which are expected to be adopted by the Committee on World Food Security in 2011. The Voluntary Guidelines draw on best practices and experience of working with countries on improving their legal, policy and institutional environment for tenure. The Legal Office provides technical legal advice to member countries to strengthen legal frameworks for sustainable land use and management, underpinned by the key principles of equity and sustainability, in ways that contribute to poverty alleviation and food security. A sound legal framework establishes an efficient and transparent land administrative system and sets up a land regime conducive to investment, economic growth and poverty reduction. Improved legal frameworks for land resources therefore promote sustainable land management practices, and where applicable, can address customary practices and laws applicable to land. Participatory methodologies for assessment and legislative drafting contribute towards building support for, and achieving consensus on, legislative amendments. Cooperation with national counterparts contributes to capacity development in sustainable land management. In some cases the Legal Office participates in further follow-up to legislative implementation through training of the judiciary, local officials and paralegals. The Legal Office will assist member countries to implement the Voluntary Guidelines and to integrate the principles contained therein in relevant technical activities.

### Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other Natural Resources

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Committee on World Food  
Security in 2011



#### Organizational Result F04

An international framework is developed and countries' capacities are reinforced for responsible governance of access to, and secure and equitable tenure of land and its interface with other natural resources, with particular emphasis on its contribution to rural development