



## **The VGGT and SDGs in the context of LANDNET – land consolidation as an example**

***9<sup>th</sup> International LANDNET workshop  
3-5 October 2017  
Budapest, Hungary***

Morten Hartvigsen, Land Tenure Officer  
FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia



## **How can LANDNET contribute to the implementation of the international development agenda?**

- **The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
- **Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT)**

**What does it mean for our daily work as land tenure professionals?**

- **Land consolidation as an example**



## Land consolidation in a global perspective

- Land consolidation is a well-established land management tool with a fairly global application but with its main prevalence in Europe and South Asia.
- In Europe, modern land consolidation goes back more than 100 years.
- Land consolidation can be applied on both ownership and use rights.
- Traditionally an instrument for agricultural development by facilitating reduction of land fragmentation and enlarged holding and farm sizes.
- More and more a multi-functional tool for integrated community development with improved agricultural infrastructure and furthermore public interventions such as nature restoration, environmental protection and development of infrastructure.

9<sup>th</sup> International LANDNET workshop – 3-5 October 2017



## Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals

- Adopted in September 2015.
- 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets.
- Requires a more programmatic and integrated approach.
- Need to re-think development work to ensure that support to land consolidation, land market development etc. best possible contributes to achieving the SDGs.



9<sup>th</sup> International LANDNET workshop – 3-5 October 2017



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### Examples of **SDG targets** where land consolidation can be relevant (1):



**SDG Target 1.2** – By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of the population living in poverty ...

**SDG Target 1.b** - Create sound policy frameworks based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions ...

**SDG Target 1.4** - By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property ...



## Examples of **SDG targets** where land consolidation can be relevant (2):



**SDG Target 2.3** - By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers / family farmers, including through secure and equal access to land ...

**SDG Target 2A** - Increase investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries ...



## Examples of **SDG targets** where land consolidation can be relevant (3):



**SDG Target 5.5** - Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities ...

**SDG Target 5A** - Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property ...



## Examples of **SDG targets** where land consolidation can be relevant (4):



**SDG Target 8.3** - Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises ...



## Examples of **SDG targets** where land consolidation can be relevant (5):



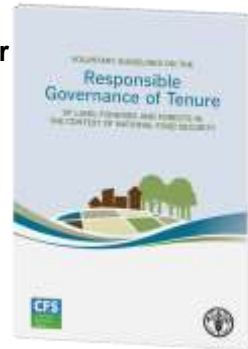
**SDG Target 15.1** - By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems ...

**SDG Target 15.3** - By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods ...



## The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT)

- Endorsed in May 2012 by the Committee on World Food Security on behalf of all UN member countries
- First international document on tenure rights and governance of tenure.
- A reference to improve governance of tenure based on international best practice.
- Promotes secure tenure rights and responsible governance with respect to all forms of tenure.
- Implementation of VGGT in itself contributes to achieving SDGs.



Contents	
PREFACE	iv
1. Preface	1
2. Objectives	1
3. Vision and scope	2
4. General matters	3
5. Guiding principles of responsible tenure governance	3
6. General principles	3
7. Principles of implementation	4
8. Policy, legal and institutional frameworks related to tenure	5
9. Delivery of services	6
10. Legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights and duties	11
11. Safeguarding	12
12. Public land, fisheries and forests	12
13. Indigenous peoples and other communities with customary tenure systems	14
14. Informal tenure	16
15. Transfers and other changes to tenure rights and duties	18
16. Markets	20
17. Investments	20
18. Land consolidation and other readjustment approaches	23
19. Mediation	25
20. Rights to justice	25
21. Compensation and compensation	27
22. Administration of tenure	29
23. Records of tenure rights	29
24. Valuation	30
25. Taxation	31
26. Regulated spatial planning	32
27. Resolution of disputes over tenure rights	33
28. Transboundary matters	33
29. Responses to climate change and emergencies	35
30. Climate change	35
31. Natural disasters	36
32. Conflicts in respect to tenure of land, fisheries and forests	37
33. Promotion, implementation, monitoring and evaluation	39

### The five general VGGT principles

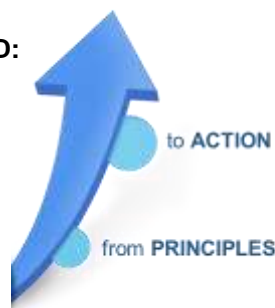
1. Recognize and respect all **legitimate** tenure right holders and their rights
2. Safeguard **legitimate** tenure rights against threats and infringements
3. Promote and facilitate the enjoyment of **legitimate** tenure rights
4. Provide access to justice to deal with infringements of **legitimate** tenure rights
5. Prevent tenure disputes, violent conflicts and corruption



**The real value of the VGGT will be determined by their contribution to changes in the lives and livelihoods of men and women around the globe, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized.**

**COLLECTIVELY DESIGNING THE ROAD AHEAD:**

1. Awareness raising
2. Capacity development
3. Country level focus
4. Partnerships, cooperation & coordination
5. Monitoring and evaluation



**What do VGGT say about land consolidation?  
(Part 4, Section 13)**

- States should recognize and respect all legitimate tenure right holders and their rights and promote formal registration.
- Participants are to be at least as well off after the schemes compared with before.
- Multi-functional approach to land consolidation is promoted when appropriate.
- Promotes voluntary land consolidation but a majority based approach is in line with VGGT if proper safeguards are in place.
- Promotes development and adoption of national land consolidation strategies.



## Land consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe

- The need to address structural problems with land fragmentation and small farm sizes has been recognized.
- So far 21 of the 25 countries have since 1990 introduced land consolidation instruments.



9<sup>th</sup> International LANDNET workshop – 3-5 October 2017



## Status of development of land consolidation programmes in Central and Eastern Europe



As of October 2017:

- **8 countries** with ongoing land consolidation programmes
- **In 13 countries** land consolidation introduced but not yet a programme
- **4 countries** with little or no land consolidation experience

9<sup>th</sup> International LANDNET workshop – 3-5 October 2017





## The experiences of FAO

- **FAO started work on land fragmentation and land consolidation shortly after it was founded in 1945.**
- **FAO has now for more than 15 years supported land consolidation in CEE by:**
  - **Providing policy guidelines**
  - **Implementing field projects in so far 10 countries**
  - **Organized 17 regional workshops between 2002 and 2017 (LANDNET)**



9<sup>th</sup> International LANDNET workshop – 3-5 October 2017



## Implementation of VGGT integrated into the work of FAO on land consolidation

- **Screening of existing legal and institutional framework for compliance with VGGT.**
- **Building on VGGT when supporting countries introducing land consolidation and developing National Land Consolidation Programmes:**
  - **Respect all legitimate tenure rights (not just formally registered ownership rights).**
  - **Include safeguards – participatory process, fair valuation and accessible options for appeal.**
  - **Prepare for land consolidation with multiple objectives.**

9<sup>th</sup> International LANDNET workshop – 3-5 October 2017



## Conclusions and way forward

- Land consolidation, as well as other technical issues related to LANDNET, can provide important contribution to the international development agenda – Achieving the SDGs and implementation of VGGT.
- But it does not come automatically and depends on how projects and programmes are designed and implemented (integrated approach).
- SDGs and VGGT is not only an issue in developing countries and should be considered in all our work as land tenure professionals.



**Thank you very much!**

**Morten Hartvigsen**

Land Tenure Officer / Regional Initiative Delivery Manager

[Morten.Hartvigsen@fao.org](mailto:Morten.Hartvigsen@fao.org)

Proceedings from LANDNET workshops 2002 – 2016:

<http://www.fao.org/europe/resources/land-tenure-workshops/en/>

VGGT:

<http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/en/>

FAO Regional Initiative on empowering smallholders and family farms:

<http://www.fao.org/europe/regional-perspectives/smallholders-family-farms/en/>

Land tenure information resources:

<http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/information-resources/land/en/>