

Applying the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security



Housing and Land Rights Network - Habitat International Coalition
6TH Land Forum in the Middle East / North Africa, Tunis, 25–27 October 2017
In cooperation with Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN

Final Report of the Sixth Session of the Land Forum in Middle East and North Africa



Housing & Land Rights Network
Habitat International Coalition

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HOUSING AND LAND RIGHTS NETWORK

H a b i t a t I n t e r n a t i o n a l C o a l i t i o n

Final Report of the Sixth Session of the Land Forum in Middle East and North Africa “Applying the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security”

Tunis, Tunisia, 25–27 October 2017

Introduction

In the framework of the Land Forum for the Middle East and North Africa as a regional platform for exchanging experiences and enhancing communication between civil society organizations concern with the land issues and its related common challenges, the Land Forum concluded its sixth session in Tunis on 24–27 October 2017. The land Forum took the reform of a workshop with the participation of 27 representatives of local and regional human rights organizations and social movements from 10 countries of the NE/NA region under the theme Applying the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure in the Context of Human Rights Principles in MENA Territory." This most recent session was an advanced step in the achievements of the Land Forum platform by enabling civil society across the region to be able to use international standards to address local problems related to land and natural resource administration.

The 6th round of the Land Forum sought to develop a regional program of specialized civil society partners to implement the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure and to identify gaps and/or specific aspects to address the region's priorities, policies and other specificity, while strengthening human rights approaches to chronic issues responsible governance of land and other natural resources in the region, including protracted crises that have resulted in mass displacement of thousands families in search of refuge either internally, or in other regions.

In this round, the Land Forum developed a set of important learning objectives for the applying the Voluntary Guidelines:

1. Understanding the background and processes of the VGGT
2. Explaining the main topics covered by the VGGT
3. Identifying main actors and processes and their respective roles
4. Understanding how to assess the local situation
5. Applying the VGGT to prepare an agenda for action for CSOs

The organization of the forum followed a curriculum of topics flowing from general to specific, theoretical to practical, culminating in strategic thinking and proposals for follow-up. The thematic sessions were ordered as follows:

1. Land Forum Past and Looking Forward
2. TG terminology and concepts

3. Fields of Application
4. Organizing Grassroots Movements in NE/NA Communities
5. Adversity and Tenure Governance Challenges in MENA
6. Implementing, Monitoring and Evaluating TGs
7. Regional and Global Processes
8. Using the Tenure Guidelines, Local Specificity and Strategic Priorities to Achieve Food Security

Each session of the workshop was organized in three parts as a guideline for civil society organizations, starting with (1) an introduction by a participant/presenter that reviewed the principles actually contained in the Tenure Guidelines (TGs) and explored the norms behind them for each thematic session, as well as (2) a local application of the principles by a participant/discussant that provided a context analysis from the experiences and conditions at the local level. The two presentations then were followed by an open debate to develop a systematic and empirical analysis of each theme identified in the workshop through exchange of experience and perspectives.

Workshop Activities:

Day One: 25 October 2017

The first session of the Workshop included a set of guidelines for the management of the workshop followed by a presentation by Mr. Alfredo Impiglia of FAO on the regional small family farm initiative in North Africa and the Near East. He cited the number of family farms worldwide as around 55 million, accounting for 85% of the world's farms. This motivated the FAO's launch of 2014 as the year of small-scale family farmers, in order to highlight the central role that these farms play in ensuring food security, and the way of eradicating of poverty in the countryside, with specific support for small-scale farmers and producers in NE/NA under the three main FAO Regional Initiatives.

The 32nd Regional Conference for the Near East and North Africa (NERC32) determined that support for small family farms has become a Regional Initiative and priority for poverty eradication, with 70% of poverty at the regional level concentrated in rural areas, while unemployment among youth is reaching 30% by 2018, and 45% of agricultural land increased salinity, erosion and loss of eradication nutrients, as well as conflicts and wars in several parts of the region. A regional program has been established in the FAO office in Cairo to facilitate the process of transitioning out of rural poverty through the development of sustainable and innovative practices to enhance the agricultural productivity of farmers and their collaborators on small family farms, developing rural Decent Work opportunities and complementary mechanisms for the social protection of small family farming and, finally, to strengthen institutional and organizational capacities in rural areas to improve small-scale family farm access to rural services and markets. Alfredo reviewed a series of major achievements of the FAO regional program to enhance productivity, employment and social protection, and to strengthen the role of rural institutions.

Land Forum Past and Looking Forward

The subsequent session on "Background, diagnosis related to TGs in the context of national food security" discussed the evolution of the Land Forum as an example of civil society capacity building, following a course from country-specific and ultimately regional diagnosis of the land-administration issues across the NE/NA region. The trajectory also reflected a process of deliberation from the theoretical to the practical, with increasing emphasis on the applicable international law and human rights norms in application as a framework for advocacy and policy analysis. Whereas the diagnostic

dimension has covered the range of issues from Mauritania and Western Sahara, in the west, to Iran and the Persian Gulf, in the east, the fifth Land Forum took the issues to a new level by exchanging experience and strategies to address these land and natural-resource issues in international policy and human rights mechanisms through the United Nations, World Bank forums.

A session on the “TG terminology and concepts” drew on the TG Learning Framework and e-learning guidance to clarify the particular terminology used in the TGs and the Land Forum. Reflecting an approach applied in the HLRN online periodical *Land Times*, the presenter linked the terminology review to the Learning Objectives 1 and 2 (above) to provide background and needed clarity as to what is meant by often-used terms in the TGs. For example, the presenter provided definitions from international instruments, where possible, to lead the discussion in what is meant by “responsible,” “governance,” “responsible governance,” “tenure,” “voluntary,” “legitimate” and “safeguards.”

The discussion emphasized the conceptual link between “responsible” and “equitable” in the governance context. Where some frequently cited terms in the TGs are not defined, the presenter sought consensus of the group, for example, in the case of “legitimate” and “legitimate claim.” In that case, participants focused on longevity and prolonged occupation of land as the primary indicator of a “legitimate” claim. Also mentioned was the lack of contestation and the general recognition by communities and/or surrounding inhabitants as an aspect of legitimacy of any tenure claim.

Taking the human rights approach and with reference to the background to the TGs, the presenter emphasized the distinction between “commitments” of a political nature and “obligations” that are legally binding. To clarify, he used international treaty law criteria to differentiate between commitments of a voluntary nature, while linking those relevant in the TG to binding human rights, humanitarian law, refugee law and peremptory norms of international law.

The discussion also considered some of the terms reviewed such as “legality,” “responsible governance” and “social protection” from one country to another in the region, especially concerning the interrelationship between custom and law in determining the legitimacy of tenure. After the break, the fourth session clarified the stakeholders on the issue of tenure.

The presenter in the fourth session reviewed an introduction to governance and its processes, mechanisms and framework as stated in the TG. He explained that the educational objective of the session was to clarify ways to engage also in a gender-sensitive participatory processes in the development and implementation of policies and laws, and the importance of recognizing political and regulatory frameworks to improve tenure governance.

The presenter reviewed the difference between two types of participation in the process of formulating tenure governance, namely, consultation and full participation, and the respective roles of governments, civil society organizations and the private sector in each decision-making process, either through face-to-face meetings or through written proposals. Under the theme “Who governs tenure,” he highlighted the imbalance of power among actors, particularly between official government entities and civil society organizations, as one of the major constraints affecting the participatory process of tenure governance. The presenter also reviewed the identification of the parties involved in the cooperation and coordination frameworks, to establish different levels of responsibility for the implementation of the governance of tenure, in different government branches and departments, and identifying obstacles that could negatively affect the cooperative and coordination frameworks such as lack of knowledge of all needed information.

Completing the contextual dimension of the subject with “Governance respecting free, prior and informed consent,” the discussant then reviewed the local context of the concept of “free, prior and informed consent” (FPIC) with respect to land management and ensuring the implementation of responsible governance of tenure, especially in relation to indigenous peoples, and the binding legal instruments for implementing this commitment in the context of tenure governance. The session also clarified the paragraphs of the TG concerning the process of consultation and participation with legitimate holders of tenure rights and the need to ensure the active, free, effective and informed participation of individuals and groups in the relevant decision-making process. He reflected on the principles of democracy in the negotiation process with local communities and the difficulty of actually implementing FPIC in the region, because of the lack of political will on the part of governments to implement these principles. He pointed out a difference between local communities, minorities and indigenous peoples. And indigenous peoples, while others objected to the fact that indigenous peoples had a culture, language and way of life of their own and different from any other, and that their use and possession of land was also of a special nature.

Fields of Application

The second part of the first day of the workshop was composed of four sessions (5–8) on the application areas of the TG and the organization of popular movements in the Near East and North Africa region. The fifth session focused on the scope of application on the nature of the territory of the state variously classified as “state land,” “commons” or “public land.” The presenter revisited a central question on which took up most of the discussions; that is, to whom does state land belong? He began with the modern definition of the term “state,” as adopted by the Inter-American Montevideo Convention of 1933, shedding light on the inextricable link between land (i.e., territory) and people (i.e., population) in composing the legal definition and criteria of the state. He presented also the developments before and after adoption of the TG by which the “right to land” has become one of the most popular demands of social and people’s movements around the world, especially after the impact of neoliberal policies and programs supporting privatization and international financial institutions on the right of people to access to the land and its equitable administration.

The session also reviewed the most-important items dealing with the issue of security of tenure and non-discrimination in access to land in the TG. The raised state’s obligation to realize and protect those rights arising from international treaties. The most important discussion of this session was to define the concept of state land, the difference between the state land and the private land of the government, as prevailing in some NE/NA states, and the need to participate among the various groups in the self-determination of the state and public lands.

The discussions also included the situation of farmers and the rural poor who do not own land, as well as the misuse of expropriation laws for public benefit in the seizure of large tracts of land, or the allocation of a lot of public domain land to investors and the private sector at the expense of people who have the right to the land supplier. Participants agreed on the importance and necessity of applying the TGs in dealing with the challenges related to state land and achieving sustainability and equity in the distribution and management of all government departments, including local government or local authorities and legally bound organs of the state bound by treaty law.

The sixth session covered the issue of water and its territorial tenure linked to the legal criteria of the state. The presenter discussed the TGs’ provisions as they relate to the 1995 Code of Conduct for

Responsible Fisheries, as well as the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, adopted after the TG in 2014. The state's exercise of sovereign territorial waters and the its impact on the governance of tenure of fisheries in the territorial waters was discussed in light of compatibility with the 1995 Guidelines. The presenter and discussant also focused on territorial waters under foreign occupation, as in the NE/NA cases of Palestine and Western Sahara, and their damage to the enjoyment of fisheries by the indigenous inhabitants of those territories. The consequences from the construction of large projects such as dams on communities affected by those projects were also raised, in particular their effect on people's access to water.

The increasing denial of small fishers' access to traditional fisheries was also a subject of discussion. In the sub-regional context of North Africa, the loss of livelihoods due to large-scale extractive fishing has forced small fishers out of their livelihood, even forcing some desperate fisherfolk to turn to illicit transport activities linked to the current wave of irregular cross-Mediterranean migration.

The meeting discussed the regional and local diagnosis of the issue of water tenure governance and stressed that the issue of safe and clean drinking water is one of the most important challenges faced by the societies of the region especially in rural areas, especially in view of the privatization of water resources to serve their investment projects in agriculture.

The discussant cited private sector acquisition of many water wells in Tunisia, for example, which affected the right of local communities to access these water resources, as well as the effects of climate change and their impact on water resources and the threat of sustainability for future generations, to preserve and distribute natural resources of water in a fair and sustainable manner. The presenter pointed out the link between that trend and the standing strategy of OECD incrementally to privatize water administration in Tunisia, despite—and perhaps because of—its recognition of the notable success of local water user associations operating until the present.

The seventh session dealt with the “spatial planning” issue in the context of responsible governance of tenure.” The presenter reviewed the key concepts of spatial planning and procedures in the TGs and addressed the definition of principles, stages, processes and potential benefits of possibly reconciling public tenure with needs of the most-vulnerable human subjects of spatial planning to fulfill their human rights to adequate housing and food security. Land, she emphasized, should be governed in a balanced, sustainable and harmonious development framework that respects the organic links between rural and urban areas. Shedding light on the often-forgotten urban dimension of the TGs, the presenter reviewed the principles governing the spatial planning process, including balanced and sustainable development in the regions to cover all environmental, social and economic aspects, clarifying the difference between land uses and tenure rights, reconciling and mediating the interests and rights of tenure holders, as well as the need of further capacity-building for all concerned. The targets of such capacity building should include local communities as well as urban planners, whose curriculum and exclusively “spatial” approach in NE/NA needs to give way to more socially responsible and human rights-based methods and tools of the trade.

Organizing Grassroots Movements in NE/NA Communities

After the second section of the first day, the last two sessions dealt with the organization of grassroots movements of NE/NA communities. The eighth session focused on small farmers and fishers. The presenter reviewed the provisions of the TGs on the status of small farmers and producers and the legal

consequences of informal tenure of land and their impact on their right to food. The participants discussed the regional and local diagnosis of some other effects such as structural adjustment programs, large-scale investments in agriculture and food systems, climate change and the impact of all these factors on the rights of small food producers to access land and natural resources.

The general debate highlighted a variety of views among the participating organizations on the definition of small producers, the various descriptions of small-scale farmers in NE/NA, the lack of appropriate policies and laws for the management of natural resources, especially water, and the need for greater protection of the rights of small-scale fishers. The current situation, imposing private control over food production, market forces precluding access to needed resources and inputs, over-fishing of marine resources and the process of marketing and rising prices, has posed severe constraints on small food producers, especially women, who are dependents on others. In the discussion, all participants agreed on the importance of implementing the TGs in addressing the situation of small producers and in supporting their right to organize and access to markets.

In the ninth and final session of the first day, was dedicated to pastoralists and grazing lands, which are not especially well developed in the TGs. The presenter reviewed the main challenges facing the security of tenure of pastoralists, the different production systems that have marginalized pastoralists and their role in food production, the TGs' role in addressing their situation and enabling them to own and use land and productive resources. Current development trends are reducing rangeland areas, forcing pastoralists into smaller spaces and destroying their livelihoods. The presenter demonstrated how mapping techniques have worked in Iran to empower pastoral communities to participate in policy deliberations over land use and planning.

The participants discussed the situation at the regional level, reviewing climate change factors, related coping mechanisms and areas of conflict, occupation and war, restricting and narrowing grazing areas and the harming the economic and social conditions of pastoralists. These combine with the region's general lack of national policies that support their rights to land tenure and recognition.

The discussion also reviewed some of the national initiatives that focused on enhancing tenure and sustainable management of grazing areas, especially in Jordan, and the contribution of civil society to the pastoralists in improving their living and organizational conditions. The debate necessarily turned to defining terms and concepts that were not common to all participants. For example, interventions clarified the distinction between "shepherd" and the activity "shepherding," on the one hand, and "pastoralist" and "pastoralism," on the other; whereas the latter is a way of life. The problem of stigma and deliberate marginalization of pastoralist arose, despite the region's cultural links to pastoralism and the benefits that pastoralists render to the surrounding communities and the environment.

Despite the decades-long deliberations about indigenous peoples and their rights at the international level, the discussion demonstrated a lack of awareness of, or appreciation for the definition of indigenous peoples or their presence in the region. The presenter and discussant shared the international criteria for defining indigenous peoples, their distinction from minorities due to their association with a specific territorial base, and the classification of economic activities, as provided in the common debate and literature on the subject. With some exceptions, most participants rather expressed a preference for a more-homogenized perception of the region, without distinction based on indigeneity.

Day Two: 26 October 2017

Adversity and Tenure Governance Challenges in NE/NA

The first session of the second day was a recapitulation of what was raised on the first day on the concept of indigenous peoples and their rights to tenure. The participants reviewed the [definition](#) developed in the international Human Rights System and ILO processes. The four criteria for recognition of indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those who:

1. Have a historic presence and continuity preceding and invasion, colonial process or wave of immigration and settlement;
2. Are societies that have developed on their territories, where they have continuous dwelt;
3. Consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing on those territories, or parts of them;
4. Self-identify as indigenous peoples and claim corresponding rights.

The presenter also explained the distinctive focus of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in defining [indigenous peoples in Africa](#) as a vulnerable group outside of the dominant society, since all peoples in the African continent have undergone some degree of colonial process or occupation. The African Commission has added the following criterion of indigenous people being in:

A state of subjugation, marginalization, dispossession, exclusion, or discrimination because these peoples have different cultures, ways of life or mode of production than the national hegemonic and dominant model.

In addition to this definition, the participants learned about the criteria used in Iran and elsewhere to distinguish "[indigenous peoples](#)" by their economic activity; i.e., as practitioners of:

Hunting-gathering,
Artisanal fishing,
[Shifting-agriculture](#), and/or
[Pastoralism](#).

The discussion illustrated the consequences for indigenous people in the context of development processes and large-scale agricultural projects, as well as the situation of indigenous peoples with acquired tenure systems over time confronting legislative or administrative measures that would affect the resources held by them and the urgency to respect their rights to their management of their livelihood resources, consultation, including FPIC, in an atmosphere of trust and not fear of fear. Many participants raised questions about the definition of indigenous peoples and the definition of their rights, as well as the unequal power between them and governments or large corporations with capital. It was clear from the general debate that there was a divergence of participants in understanding the definition of indigenous peoples and their historical rights to their natural resources.

In the second session, the presenter reviewed the profile of landlessness and landless persons, the general concept of the term landless, the difference between the landless and others who did not own land, and what challenges and constraints that group faced in accessing the land. The presenter also reviewed some of the initiatives undertaken by the International Planning Committee (IPC), including the role of NE/NA civil society organizations such as Land Research Centre (Palestine) and its Director Jamal al-Amleh, co-coordinator of the new IPC Landless Constituency, to develop a definition and characterization of landless categories and the main group involved in the Rome-based processes.

The discussion also considered the possibility of devising a definition of landless persons according to the regional context of the NE/NA region. The discussion also reviewed the situation of the landless category in the region, held last year in Tunis in 2016. Their vulnerability to food insecurity and how the Voluntary Guidelines on tenure could be applied to secure their land tenure rights and improve their living conditions.

The participants reviewed a working definition from that workshop as follows:

The condition of being without equitable access to, and use of rural or urban land with secure tenure as needed to fulfill one or more human needs and/or human rights.

A person or group living in such a condition (i.e., landlessness) due to any single, or combination of means and factors, including but not limited to:

Discrimination;
Dispossession;
Displacement, including forced eviction;
Denial (of use, access, etc.);
Scarcity of land;
Insufficient capability;
Damage or destruction of land and/or means of access.

Landless persons and communities may undergo any combination of gross violations of their human rights, including in the context of:

- Displacement (IDPs)
- Forced Eviction
- Homelessness
- Population transfer
- Ethnic cleansing
- Denial of self-determination
- Famine
- Loss of inheritance
- Refugee / asylum seeker (other rights)

In their landless circumstances, landless persons and communities may be considered as:

“Victims” (as defined in international law as subjects of crime and/or abuse of power);
Affected (whether or not the perpetrator/duty holder is known);
Vulnerable (thus, subjects of government-supported measures prioritizing further protection, reparations and/or temporary special measures); as well as
Agents of remedy.

The third session of the second day was dedicated to exploring the initiative of FAO to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for the Promotion of Legitimate Possession in the Sudan in the Greater Darfur Region. The presenter provided a summary of the experience of applying the guidelines in Sudan, especially to farmers in war situations. The project aims at consolidating the application of guidelines on tenure at the community and state level (central government sphere), contributing to the development of land-use planning systems, and reforming regulations to ensure gender equality, as well as youth empowerment by finding solutions to problems. The initiative provides training on the TGs for key stakeholders to ensure peace and stability in the sites where displaced persons returned, develop a community action plan for natural resource maps and implement land-use mapping.

After the break, participants organized mini-panel discussions on the most important dilemmas and challenges to tenure governance in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Three group discussions were held to discuss the following topics:

- Responsible governance of tenure in the context of inequality and gender discrimination.
- Responsible governance of tenure in natural disasters and climate change.
- Responsible governance of tenure in conflict, occupation, and war (protracted crises).

After reviewing the recommendations of the group discussions, the workshop addressed the issue of ecological agriculture and its importance in achieving equitable and sustainable food security. The session reviewed the links between agroecology and the TG principles, while the TGs refer to agroecology in only one instance; i.e., in connection with spatial planning (Principle 20.5). The presenter shared the six principle of agroecology provided in the [Nyéléni Declaration: agroecology for food sovereignty!](#) The concept and approach aims at stopping the depletion of resources and seeds, posing alternative to the privatization of commons and the environmental impacts of large-scale agricultural projects, the recognition of small-scale food producers in the restoration of national seed assets and the protection of biodiversity and animal breeds. Agroecology especially supports local communities as producers and consumers, and the relations between them, as well as strengthening the solidarity economy and the development of alternative sources of funding for private banks and monopoly. The session moderator also reviewed the analysis of the local context of the specific conditions of the region regarding the extent to which the agro-ecosystems and the regional activities of FAO with civil society organizations in the region are in support and promotion of eco-agriculture to achieve food security in a fair and sustainable manner. The participants also learned about the current FAO initiative at the NEE/NA regional level in the form of an upcoming agroecology conference in Tunis (late November 2017) and a global conference on the subject at Rome in the spring of 2018.

Implementing, Monitoring and Evaluating the TGs

In the 6th session, on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Voluntary Guidelines, the presenter set out several relevant regional instruments, advocacy opportunities and strategies for monitoring and evaluating State obligations and accountability with respect to tenure governance. He highlighted, once again, the difference between positive commitments and binding legal obligations, suggesting the obligations should lead our approach to implementation, monitoring and evaluation efforts related to the new global policies (2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, New Urban Forum, etc.), including those related to the TGs. He proposed a focus on the legal consequences of each commitment related to land, forest and fisheries tenure governance, and to develop CSO capacities and strategies focused on where and how the guidelines fall under the state's human rights obligations.

He also reviewed the central placement of land governance in the global agendas and means of implementation of each of them, focusing on the example of reporting (by Egypt) to the High-level Political Forum reviewing SDG implementation. That example demonstrated how the obligations of the state party to CEDaW with respect to rural women's access and control over land and natural resource tenure (in CEDaW General Comment No. 34 of 2016), while also legally binding, are far more explicit than SDG reporting criteria, or the actual state's SDG reporting already demonstrated in 2017.

The seventh session of the second day dealt with corruption in land tenure, fisheries and forestry and anticorruption strategies. The presenter reviewed the items contained in the TGs for combating

corruption in land management and other natural resources, whether related the general principles, political, legal and regulatory frameworks relating to tenure, delivery of services, public land and other items in the Guidelines. The discussant also reviewed the Yemen example in CSO cooperation with the Habitat International Coalition's Housing and Land Rights Network to redress of the victims of land-grabbing and related violations under the previous regime, as well as more recently in the war afflicting Yemen. The experience involved quantification of the losses, costs and damages undergone by victims within the frame of their entitlements to reparation, as defined in the relevant General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/147. The presenter characterized the extent of corruption by the former regimes and the influential in systematic land looting and reviewed the recommendations of the National Reconciliation Commission in dealing with issues of remedying land theft, peace, stability and national reconciliation. While discussing some other models of corruption in the management of markets and trade, he cited the seizure of vast tracts of land for extractive industries, the consequent inability of farmers to access land, even through loans. He added to these the forms of corruption in the consumption of imported products and the export of domestic products, contributing to high prices, depletion of domestic produce and its contribution to the impoverishment of small-scale food producers fishermen and pastoralists.

All recommendations for the three mini-discussions are attached to the report.

Day Three: 27 October 2017

While reviewing the theoretical frameworks and regional status profiles on the issues covered by the TGs, the third and final day of the workshop addressed opportunities and future activities that would support the application and implementation of the Guidelines in the NE/NA region and link them with other processes at the global level, such as the development of [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas](#), the Committee on Economic, social and cultural Rights future adoption of a General Comment on Economic and Social Rights on [the Human Right to] Land, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The discussion turned also to the regional level such as the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East and North Africa (NERC34), including the deliberations on the three FAO Regional Initiatives (supporting small-scale producers, resilience in the context of climate change and water scarcity). Then presenters introduced the mechanisms for CSOs in implementing the Guidelines and developing other norms in support of food sovereignty, reviewing the respective roles and functions of the Committee on World Food Security, the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC), the Civil Society Mechanism for the Committee on World Food Security (CSM for CFS).

In the final session of the last day of the workshop, participants organized themselves in two roundtables to assess the workshop and the application of the TGs. The first addressed what was missing in the TGs from the Ne/NA regional perspective; the second identified with the urgent steps of a strategic plan for CSOs to address the issues covered by the Guidelines.

Recommendations

At the end of that session, participants reported a set of important recommendations that should be considered to localize and apply the TGs in support of responsible tenure governance in the region, as follows:

- Further strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations concerned with the right to food in the NE/NA region and exchanging experiences among them under the auspices of FAO.
- Developing a strategy for pastoralist issues and confronting the challenges faced by the pastoral community, both in forests and mountain areas, and develop their capacity to conserve natural resources to ensure their sustainability in the context of land scarcity and the effects of climate change.
- To enhance the knowledge of civil society in the region of the importance of the issue of agroecology, seed sovereignty and alternative production, which could provide some of the most sensitive solutions in the countries of the region.
- Developing CSOs attention to the issue of water scarcity and the problems of water resources, including those resulting from privatization, in the countries of the region, especially the countries under occupation and cases of looting national water resources by other countries.
- To promote awareness and knowledge of the issue of climate change, the problem of drought and desertification, and its impact on agricultural production and the cost of living.
- Promoting and consolidate the concept of food sovereignty and its importance for farmers and food producers in the region.
- The need to strengthen the capacity of civil society to access information from the construction of cadastral maps of land and its uses.
- Establishing a database of civil society organizations on land issues and tenure governance, and to link them to the global networks.

Annex I: Workshop Program

Land Forum in the Middle East / North Africa		
Applying the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure in the MENA Region		
Housing and Land Rights Network: Habitat International Coalition		
In cooperation with Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN		
Hotel du Parc, Tunis		
25–27 October 2017		
Wednesday, 25 October		
09:00–09:30	Registration	
09:30–09:45	Welcome	HIC-HLRN and FAO
10:00–10:15	Participant introductions, expectations	all
10:15–10:30	Small-Scale Family Farming in NE/NA Open discussion	Presenter: Alfredo Impiglia, FAO
Land Forum Past and Looking Forward		
10:30–10:45	Background, diagnosis related to TGs in the context of national food security	Presenter: Ahmed Mansour Ismail, HLRN
10:45–11:00	TG terminology and concepts	Presenter: Joseph Schechla, HLRN
11:00–11:30	Open discussion	
11:30–11:45	Break	
11:45–12:00	Who and what governs tenure	Presenter: Karim Akrouit, Syndicat tunisien des agriculteurs (Synagri)
12:00–12:15	Governance respecting free, prior and informed consent	Discussant: Badr Eddin Ourich, Fédération nationale du secteur agricole
12:15–12:30	Open discussion	
12:30–13:30	Lunch	
Fields of Application		
13:30–13:45	State land	Presenter: Ahmed Mansour Ismail, HIC-HLRN
13:45–14:00		Discussant: TBD
14:00–14:15	Open discussion	
14:15–14:30	Territorial waters	Presenter: Hacene Hamdani, Réseau algérien des associations de la pêche artisanale
14:30–14:45		Discussant: Salah al-Ghudhour, Syndicat des ingénieurs agronome
14:45–15:00	Open discussion	
15:00–15:15	Spatial planning in the context of the responsible governance of tenure	Presenter: Joana Ricart, HLRN
15:15–15:30		Discussant: Adel Azzabi, Association des Habitants de Mourouj II
15:30–15:45	Open discussion	
15:45–16:00	Break	
Organizing Grassroots Movements in MENA Communities		

16:00–16:15	Small-scale farmers and fishers	Presenter: Hacene Hamdani, Réseau algérien des associations de la pêche artisanale
16:15–16:30		Discussant: Mongi Chniter, Réseau Tunisien de la Pêche Artisanale Durable
16:30–16:45	Open discussion	
16:45–17 :00	Pastoralists and rangeland / الكلاء (من موريتانيا إلى إيران)	Presenter: Ghanimat Azhdari, UNINOMAD/CENESTA
17:00–17:15		Discussant: Khalid al-Khawaldah, Dana and Qadisiyah Local Community Cooperative/WAMIP
17:15–17:30	Open discussion	
Thursday, 26 October		
09:00–09:15	Indigenous peoples / الشعوب الأصلية	Presenter: Joseph Schechla, HIC-HLRN / Khalid al-Khawaldah, Dana and Qadisiyah Local Community Cooperative/WAMIP
09:15–09:30		Discussant: Ghanimat Azhdari, UNINOMAD/CENESTA
09:30–09:45	Open discussion	
09:45–10:00	Landless	Presenter: Muhammad Hasasnah, LRC
10:00–10:15		Discussant: Joseph Schechla, HLRN
10:15–10:30	Open discussion	
10:30–10:45	Break	
10:45–11:00	Implementation of the TGs in Sudan	Presenter: Phoebe Lewis, FAO
11:00–11:15	Open discussion	
Adversity and Tenure Governance Challenges in MENA		
Small group discussions in separate rooms (each may need a projector). Presenters provide the contents of the TGs, and the discussion provide the contextual analysis as they relate to his/her country and NE/NA region. Each group selects a rapporteur to report back to the plenary		
11:15–12:00	Group 1: Responsible tenure governance amid gender inequality and discrimination	Presenter: Maede Salimi, Association of Iranian Women for Sustainable Development; Rapporteur: Souad Mahmoud, World March of Women / General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT)
	Group 2: Responsible tenure governance amid environmental disaster	Presenter: Rana Ghanem, Social Democratic Forum (Yemen); Rapporteur: Sa`ida F. Hassoun, Together to Protect Human & Environment Association
	Group 3: Responsible tenure governance in conflict, occupation and war (protracted crises)	Presenters: Taleb Brahim, Sahrawi Union of Farmers; Discussant: Rami Barhoush, Arab Group for the Protection of Nature
12:15–12:45	Small group presentations: Each rapporteur presents outcomes for 5–7 mins., with 8–	

	10 minutes for additions, clarification and/or open discussion.	
12:45–13:45	Lunch	
13:45–14:00	Making the case for agroecology and food systems	Presenter: Laura Tabet, Nawaya
14:00–14:15		Discussant: Mohsen Kalboussie, Agroecology Association for a Green Agricultural Environment
14:15–14:30	Open discussion	
Implementing, Monitoring and Evaluating TGs		
14:30–14:45	How and what to monitor for responsible governance of tenure: Guidelines, commitments and obligations	Presenter: Joseph Schechla, HLRN
14:45–15:00		Discussant:
15:00–15:15	Open discussion	
15:15–15:45	Break	
15:45–16:00	Corruption in the tenure of land, fisheries and forests	Presenter: Nabil Abdul Hafidh Majid, Transparency Forum / Land Reparations Project
16:00–16:15		Discussant: Jamal Sadoq, ATTAC-Morocco
16:15–16:30	Open discussion	
16:30–16:45	Tenure in the context of business practices (الخصوصية، والأمولة، والعولمة الاقتصادية)	Presenter: Joana Ricart, HIC-HLRN
16:45–17:00		Discussant: Adil Bakheet, Sudan Human Rights Monitor
17:00–17:15	Open discussion	
17:15–17:30	Wrap-up on contents and local application	
Friday, 27 October		
Regional and Global Processes		
09:00–09:15	Links to other global processes: UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, CESCR General Comment on HR2L, Paris Agreement, NUA and SDGs	Presenter: Joseph Schechla, HLRN
09:15–09:30	Open discussion	
09:30–09:45	CFS, IPC, CSM	Presenter: Guilherme Brady, FAO
09:45–10:00	NERC and new approaches	Presenter: Kayan Jaff, FAO
10:00–10:30	Open discussion	
10:30–10:45	Break	
Using the Tenure Guidelines, Local Specificity and Strategic Priorities to Achieve Food Security		
10:45–11:00	Guidance for Strategic Sessions	Presenter: Joana Ricart, HLRN
11:00–11:45	What’s missing (issues)	Facilitator: TBD, Rapporteur: TBD
11:45–12:30	What’s urgent (planning)	Facilitator: TBD, Rapporteur: TBD
12:30–12:45	Concluding Remarks (distribution of evaluation forms)	
12:45–	Collection of evaluation forms, lunch and departure	

Annex II: List of Participants

<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> HIC-HLRN MENA Regional Land Forum: "Applying the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure in MENA region," Tunis, Tunisia, 25–27 October 2017 منتدى الأرض في الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا "تطبيق الخطوط التوجيهية للحيازة في الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا" تونس، 25–27 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر 2017 </div> </div>							
List of Participants / قائمة المشاركين							
English				عربي			
Name	Country	Affiliation	E-mail	المنظمة / الجمعية	البلد	الاسم	
FAO Funded							
Adil Bakheet	Sudan	Sudan Human Rights Monitor	anssag@yahoo.co.uk	المركز السوداني لحقوق الإنسان	السودان	عادل بخيت	♂
Badr Eddin Ourich	Morocco	Fédération nationale du secteur agricole (FNSA)	badr.ourich@gmail.com	الاتحاد الوطني للقطاع الزراعي (فنسا)	المغرب	بدر الدين عريش	♂
Ghaidaa Flayyih Hassoon	Iraq	Together to Protect Human & The Environment Association	ghayhassoon2004@yahoo.com	جمعية معاً لحماية الإنسان والبيئة	العراق	غيداء فليح حسون	♀
Ghanimat Azhderi	Iran	UNINOMAD	ghanimat.azhdari@gmail.com	UNINOMAD	إيران	غنيمات أزهري	♀
Jamal Sadoq	Morocco	ATTAC-Morocco	abouwahaj@gmail.com	أطاك المغرب	المغرب	جمال صادق	♂
Joana Ricart	Egypt	HLRN	jricart@hlrn.org	شبكة حقوق الأرض والسكن	مصر	جوانا ريكارت	♀
Joseph Schechla	Egypt	HLRN	jschechla@hlrn.org	شبكة حقوق الأرض والسكن	مصر	جوزيف شكلا	♂
Khalid al-Khawaldah	Jordan	Dhana and Qadisiyah Local Community Cooperative/WAMIP	khalidibr@yahoo.com	جمعية تعاونيات المجتمع المحلي لضانا والقادسية	الأردن	خالد خوالدة	♂
Laura Tabet	Egypt	Nawaya	laura@nawayaegypt.org	جمعية نوايا	مصر	لورا ثابت	♀
Mohammad Hassasneh	Palestine	Land Research Center	mohds@lrcj.org	مركز أبحاث الأراضي	فلسطين	محمد حساسنه	♂
Nabil Abdul Hafidh Majid	Yemen	Transparency Forum / Land Reparations Project	Nabil.noor69@gmail.com	منتدى الشفافية / مشروع جبر الضرر للأراضي المنهوبة	اليمن	نبيل عبد الحفيظ ماجد	♂
Rami Mohammad Barhoush	Jordan	Arab Group for the Protection of Nature	rbarhoush@gmail.com	المجموعة العربية لحماية الطبيعة	الأردن	رامي برهوش	♀
Rana Ghanim	Yemen	Social Democratic Forum	ranaghanem71@gmail.com	المنتدى الاجتماعي الديمقراطي	اليمن	رنا غانم	♀
Taleb Brahim	Western Sahara	Sahrawi Union of Farmers	tbrahim8@gmail.com	الاتحاد الصحراوي للمزارعين	الصحراء الغربية	طالب إبراهيم	♂
Yasser Abdelkader	Egypt	HLRN	yasser@hic-mena.org	شبكة حقوق الأرض والسكن	مصر	ياسر عبد القادر	♂
IPC NEE/NA Follow-up Committee							
Ahmed Mansour	Egypt	HLRN	amansour@hic-mena.org	شبكة حقوق الأرض والسكن	مصر	أحمد منصور	♂
Maede Salimi	Iran	Association of Iranian Women for Sustainable Development	salimi.maede@gmail.com	رابطة المرأة الإيرانية للتنمية المستدامة	إيران	ماندة ساليبي	♀

Confirmed local participants (no financial implications for travel)							
Souad Mahmoud	Tunisia	World March of Women / General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT)	souadmahmoud@yahoo.fr	المسيرة العالمية للمرأة	تونس	سعاد محمود	♀
Adel Azzabi	Tunisia	Association des Habitants de Marouj II	azzabiadel@gmail.com	جمعية سكان مروج الثانية			
Mohsen Kalbosie	Tunisia	Agro-ecology Association for a Green Agricultural Environment	mkalboussi@gmail.com	جمعية إيكولوجيا للبيئة الزراعية الخضراء	تونس	محسن كلبوسي	♂
Karim Akrouit	Tunisia	Syndicat tunisien des agriculteurs (Synagri)	karimakrouit@yahoo.fr	الاتحاد التونسي للمزارعين (سيناغري)	تونس	كريم عكروط	♂
Soha Ben Slama	Tunisia	International Alliance of Inhabitants	soha.aih.tunisie@habitants.org	الإتلاف العالمي للسكان	تونس	سهى بن سلامة	♀
Chyrine Sassi	Tunisia	General Union of Arab Peasants and Agricultural Cooperatives	sassichyrine1981@gmail.com	الاتحاد العام للفلاحين والتعاونيين الزراعيين العرب	تونس	شيريم ساسي	♀
FAO Delegation							
Guilherme Brady	Italy	FAO-OPC (Rome)	Guilherme.Brady@fao.org	منظمة الفاو	إيطاليا	غيرمي برادي	♂
Alfredo Impiglia	Cairo	(FAO (Regional office-Cairo	Alfredo.Impiglia@fao.org	منظمة الفاو	إيطاليا	ألفريدو إيمبجليا	♂
Kayan Jaff	Cairo	FAO (Regional office-Cairo)	Kayvan.Jaff@fao.org	منظمة الفاو	القاهرة	كايفان جيف	♂
Phoebe Lewis	Cairo	(FAO (Regional office-Cairo	Phoebe.Lewis@fao.org	منظمة الفاو	القاهرة	فويبي لويس	♀