

## Women's Land Rights Expert Meeting Report

In collaboration with Gender Resource Facility, Kadaster, LANDac, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oxfam Novib and Wageningen Centre for Development and Innovation



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## 1. Introduction

This report contains the outcomes and key themes from the Women's Land Rights expert meeting, which was held on 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November at Marialust in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands. The event was organised by: The Gender Resource Facility, Kadaster, LANDac, The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oxfam Novib and the Centre for Development Innovation at Wageningen University. The meeting began with a welcome speech by Kees de Zeeuw (Director) from Kadaster International and was officially opened by Frits van der Wal, Focal Point for Land Governance at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring together practitioners, scholars, policymakers and representatives of grassroots movements to develop strategies and outcomes that address one crucial question: how to successfully improve and scale women's land tenure security and land rights? The objectives of the meeting were threefold:

- To identify the most promising experiences, ideas and strategies to scale up women's land rights;
- To develop roadmaps reflecting the participants' vision and proposed actions on the best ways to scale women's land rights, and including which actors to target or call upon;
- To identify and validate what works where.

The expert meeting included group discussions for the purpose of collecting ideas and key success factors for scaling of women land rights initiatives, which were also presented during a plenary session. Common ideas and experiences were taken further to define the most promising strategies and the necessary elements needed to enhance the chances of successfully scaling women's land rights.

### 1.1 Discussion Paper

The workshop was informed by an inspiring discussion paper, 'Global Scaling up of Women's Land Rights' wrote by Renée Giovarelli and Elisa Scalise (Resource Equity). The purpose of this discussion paper was to serve as a starting point for the discussions and to highlight what works and does not work in interventions that aim to promote, enhance or scale women's land rights. Below is a summary of the main conclusions from the discussion paper:

#### **Main Conclusions**

- Advocacy for changing laws is a vital and a much-needed intervention. Changes in laws can create space for social change and can have a profound effect when these changes are integrated into programming that seeks to implement them.
- Important to identify, collaborate with, and support local partners that focus on land rights, access to natural resources, women's rights, and gender equality.
- Two-way communication between the implementers of a programme, project or policy and beneficiaries -both women and men- should be the starting point for any project.
- For monitoring and evaluation purposes, track the results of projects against meaningful indicators, ensuring that female-headed households as well as women within male-headed households are being reached. Also, take the time to understand the gender dimensions of land tenure, and acknowledge that women and men have different needs, interests, roles and priorities in regards to land and natural resources.

## **1.2 A Note on Country Context**

Dorine Burmanje (Chair of the Executive Board for Kadaster) spoke about her experiences of promoting women's rights and gender equality within the Netherlands, and specifically within the Dutch Kadaster. This raised the issue of context as the initiatives that have been applied in the Netherlands may not work in a different country due to their different cultures and histories. And that even in the Netherlands, gender issues still remain to a certain degree.

Participants agreed that any country or region specific context must be understood thoroughly when discussing options for scaling women's land rights. It can be potentially detrimental promoting a single intervention as the golden solution, which might be generating other factors that are contradictory to what you want to achieve. There is a need to reflect on each option and not to generalise, which requires evidence within each context.

## **2. Key Factors of Success and Strategies**

During the meeting, the participants brainstormed on their experiences in relation to women's land rights, and which elements and conditions are crucial for achieving positive impact in improving women's access to and control over land rights.

Participants identified the following critical success factors:

- Create alliances, embrace linkages for transformation, multi-level and multi-stakeholder, coalitions;
- Align investments and interventions at different entry points and scales, such as global, national and local;
- Include the participation of men and women;
- Agency of women for empowerment and constituency building at the local level;
- The need to recognise the complexity of the context and that long-term commitments and a holistic approach is required;
- Linking economic livelihoods and human rights;
- Windows of opportunities;
- Strong systems for land administration and progressive laws;
- Harness lived experiences;
- Bringing researchers, activists, state actors, and practitioners together at this meeting.

Several predominant strategies, ideas and actors were common throughout the discussions on the key factors of success. Below are the strategies that were developed by the participants of the expert meeting:

### **2.1 Agency, Empowerment and Activism**

Implementing an inclusive participatory approach and women's empowerment are preconditions for women to claim and exercise their rights; the active agency of women must be encouraged in the form of decision making and leadership at all levels from shaping national frameworks and international dialogue to the household. In line with an inclusive approach, participatory mapping among community members for demarcating land would be another method for empowering the agency of women and creating collaboration between various groups.

If the opportunity to develop the self-capacity and self-esteem of grassroots women and movements is given, an environment to advocate for further rights can be created. From this point, linkages can be made with other groups or organisations. This aids capacity development and helps to raise awareness, which supports the agency of women. The overall goal of this strategy is to ensure that these movements, platforms or organisations become self-sustaining.

## **2.2 Closing the Knowledge Gap and Synthesising Key Messages**

One of the common threads from the discussions was the need to prioritise research gaps in cases of no evidence and to communicate these new findings and evidence to convince key decision and policymakers through key messages. This would also close the knowledge gap within the field of women's land rights and gender. Research can also be conducted in such a way that it captures the lived experiences from community members. These experiences should be informing and influencing the strategies, public policy and the actions of women's land rights activists, the private sector and social movements.

Moreover, there are critical elements on women's land rights, such as how to protect women's individual rights in collective tenure regimes, lease and rental policies as an opportunity for women's collective and individual rights, the gendered impact of climate change, that need to be further explored. Synthesising current research papers, policy briefs and project documents is another action to take forward, which was partly demonstrated by the discussion paper, but it can be taken further on a larger scale. This can involve analysing existing sex-disaggregated data, serving to highlight the starting point in order to measure the progress of scaling women's land rights.

## **2.3 Appropriate Land Administration and Governance**

There are a number of relevant international and national policy tools and targets, such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGTs) and the Africa Union's (AU) commitment of 30% target of new documented land rights allocated to African women by 2025 (AU specialised technical committee on agriculture, rural development, water and environment, 2016). However, frameworks such as the VGGTs are not legally binding; governments are not forced to act on the issue of improving women's land rights. Additionally, the international and national standards do not have an in-depth framework that analyses specific requirements or indicators on women's land rights to assess whether they are on the right track. Therefore, governments and donors need to be influenced to establish criteria, including gender as a strategy at the international and national level, in order to prioritise women's land rights. Using M&E tools such as the Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC) can also aid in the implementation of policies, such as the VGGTs or other national frameworks at country level.

It has also been suggested that women's land rights should be framed within the economic livelihoods and the human rights discourse. The productivity discourse states that if women have the same access to land as men, food security would be less of an issue and agricultural production would be higher. In practice, productive and efficient women help women to keep and use their land. However, this should not be the prevailing narrative and should be transformed that the reasons for women to own and access land is to ensure the improvement of livelihoods and attain gender equality. This could be the focal point of a land administrative

system that places gender equality and women's land rights at the forefront of policy and activities.

Lastly, with the word "appropriate" it should be stressed that this strategy only works after a thorough context analysis. Land administration and governance tools and policies should always be adapted to the local specific context.

#### **2.4 Operationalising Land Administration and Governance**

It is crucial to understand how women's land rights are best strengthened administratively; as an example, some participants argued that in certain contexts, women are choosing individual land rights over joint titling. In other cases, participants argued that the formalisation of private property through titling may not even be always the right approach to women's tenure security and could be potentially detrimental, particularly in traditional collective tenure regimes, and for women's rights over communal land and natural resources. In other words, other opportunities should also be considered, and where possible, women should be provided with multiple options to choose from. There needs to be a functioning legal regulatory environment and local and national institutions that have the capacity to capture the continuum of land rights and record all of the various rights to land. Local land and natural resources governance systems must be inclusive, and women must be empowered to meaningfully take part in these systems.

One example is the fit-for-purpose approach, which means that "the land administration systems, and especially the underlying spatial framework of large scale mapping, should be designed for the purpose of managing current land issues within a specific country or region, rather than simply following more advanced technical standards" and complying with rigid regulations (FIG, 2014: 6). The fit-for-purpose approach encapsulates a number of key elements such as flexibility, inclusivity and participatory data collection with support from the community, which is essential for building affordable and sustainable land administrative systems in various contexts. Any land administrative system should have the capacity to be incrementally improved over time in order to fulfil long-term objectives, such as the redistribution of land and conflict resolution.

However, even if women have secure land tenure or documentation of land ownership, customary, cultural or traditional norms may prevent women from using their titles, participate in the local land governance systems or even being able to productively use the land. For this reason, the work on land administration and governance cannot be separated from a genuine empowerment process and changes in social values and attitudes

While examining the global level, it was realised that all actions need to take place within a continuum of local practices that inform national policies and laws and international agreements and vice versa. Moreover, there must be equal participation of men and women in land administration and management. A number of strategies can also be implemented such as further research on effective and innovative interventions, capacity building, effective systems and collaboration through a multi-stakeholder approach.

## 2.5 Mainstreaming Gender in Land Governance Education

Another suggested strategy is to educate a new generation of practitioners, researchers in land administration and governance issues by integrating social, environmental and cultural studies with technical dimensions. This can reinforce the ethos of gender equitable and inclusive governance of land tenure and administration within technical subjects or degrees. Social studies and gender equality could be included into the curriculum of degrees that specifically address land rights such as agriculture, engineering and public policy. By developing a gender specific curriculum within land rights, technical skills can be combined with social studies, in order to explicitly expose students and professionals to gender equitable land.

## 3. Roadmap Discussion

For the implementation of the common strategies built around these critical success factors, preliminary roadmaps were developed.

### 3.1 Global Scale Roadmap

Representatives from Oxfam, Both ENDS, Radboud University, the World Resource Institute (WRI), Resource Equity, Huairou Commission and Landesa were involved in developing this roadmap for upscaling women's land rights at the global level. While looking at global level, the group realised that all actions need to take place within a continuum of local practices that inform national policies and laws and international agreements and the other way around. Effective interventions further require research, capacity building, effective systems and collaboration are paramount at not only the global level, but across all scales.

The roadmap adopts a universal goal, which states:

***“50-100% of newly documented land to be titled to women by 2050, individually or jointly, and 50-100% of power in communal land to women by 2050”***

The group that developed the beginnings of this roadmap acknowledges that more work needs to be done to measure power and access within communal land and to develop a more succinct gender goal for communal land as well.

The roadmap intervention suggests several lines of action:

- Training on the VGGTs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whilst also referring to other international standards, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- It would be also necessary to influence the voluntary guidelines within a multi-stakeholder donor platform to encourage countries to adopt frameworks, such as the VGGTs, and to add gender specific dimensions for measuring.
- Through the expert meeting network, strategic agents should be identified for training, especially at the grassroots level.
- Equipping women's land rights activists, professionals and governments with appropriate tools to implement the objectives that achieve the overall goal of the roadmap.
- This can be achieved through collaboration between participants of the expert meeting to develop and deliver training tools, and to support one another.

- The outcome should be to ensure that countries prioritise gender aspects when selecting which voluntary guidelines they would like to implement.
- The global scale roadmap can also be linked to the other interventions that focus on the regions, such as training people on the equitable land rights tools and ensure that they are equipped to implement the VGGTs.

The participants who developed this roadmap also provided commitments from the organisations they represent and potential actors for scaling up women's land rights:

- Oxfam, Both ENDS and WRI will identify and follow-up support to land activists and environmentalists in various countries;
- WRI will train people and contribute to the STRIPE tool;
- Resource Equity can support content and development of tools for training purposes;
- Huairou Commission will identify grassroots organisations and contribute tools (manual and training system), support in local to local dialogue for grassroots leaders with their authorities;
- Landesa shall help to develop the training curriculum (based on existing programme) and use the network of trained professionals and support the network sustainability and work with them on joint lobby and advocacy at the national, regional and global level, and help with identifying government people;
- The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) or the voluntary guideline platform could be a source of funding;
- FIG (Surveyors and Land Administration) shall help identify professionals for training and provide funding for them
- The International Land Coalition (ILC) also committed to support this road map.

### **3.2 Roadmap for Latin America**

Representatives from the International Land Coalition (ILC), Huairou Commission and Foro Interacional de Mujeres Indigenas were involved in developing this roadmap. Moreover, for this discussion, Peru and Brazil were highlighted as potential areas for intervention. In Brazil, the Family Farming scheme provides one of the entry points, where synergies can be identified and mutual interests of the platform to foster women's land rights in land governance issues.

In order for this to be achieved, a number of actions were suggested:

- The first action is to create a platform combined with a coordination mechanism that enables different stakeholders, in particular government officials and grassroots movements, to come together to promote women's land rights. Hence tackling the gender issue in a broader and not exclusively focusing on land. This could also come in the form of a council to decide to design and integrate gender dimensions into public policies. Impact evaluations should also be conducted to gather evidence and validate data in order to guide public policies and future implementation.
- In regards to national governments, there needs to be a focus on cross-cutting themes and not to address women's land rights separately, such as combining indigenous issues and the rights of women.
- Within this roadmap, there is also a need for technical support in order for people to use equitable land rights tools e.g. GEC and/or the Continuum of Land Rights approach, which links to the global scale roadmap. These tools can be used to evaluate gender



dimensions and how these dimensions are actually integrated in implementing policies related to the SDGs.

- One essential criterion is the need for a strong civil society movement to hold governments accountable and to mobilise communities. This can also include ensuring that civil society organisations truly engage with communities to ensure that they are actively implementing an inclusive approach within the decision-making process. Moreover, linkages can be made between NGOs and community organisations.
- There is a need to access resources, but potentially through initiatives that are already happening. Therefore, an appraisal can be conducted to assess what is currently operational and coordinate collaborative actions that are aligned to scale up women's land rights.

### **3.3 Roadmap for Asia**

Representatives from Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Social Development Foundation India and Kadaster International were involved in developing this roadmap. For the group working on Asia, specific areas of Northern India and Nepal were highlighted as case studies and potential areas of intervention. The group focused on the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which borders Nepal. This roadmap focused on the goal of a minimum of 30% of legitimate rights for women are documented and designed for change that is feasible and operational. Dalits and ethnic minorities such as Tharu people have been generally deprived of access to and ownership of land over the last few decades. In the 1960s, India passed the Land Ceiling Law, which aimed to redistribute excess land to landless groups of people, such as Dalit and Tharu people. However, the law has not been implemented in an equal manner, and land tenure insecurity as well as landlessness is still persisting within Dalit communities and Tharu people.

The proposed intervention suggests to build upon existing initiatives, such as advocacy and juridical actions to redress historical injustices in enforcing land rights by accessing justice through the courts, and aim towards a minimum of 30% redistributed accessible land specifically to women and women's groups by 2022.

In order to achieve this intervention, potential partners for scaling have been identified. These include: LANDac, WUR, local media organisations, and donors, SDF, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), lawyer associations, UPLA, PRIs, State government, and Kadaster International. In order for scaling, this particular court case would need to be won, which can then be championed as a best practice. However, this intervention requires long-term commitment as this particular case was filed more than 15 years ago.

### **3.4 Roadmap for Africa**

Representatives from Oxfam, Oxford University, ActionAid International, IFPRI, IWMI, GROOTS International, FIG and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development were involved in developing this roadmap. The group also selected Mozambique, Niger, Kenya and Uganda as potential countries for intervention.

The AU commitment to 30% of new registered land rights in the name of women was used as a starting point for discussion. Some participants in the group discussion argued that the specific

target and percentage might be misleading, as definition of ‘tenure security’ concepts might vary according to specific national and sometimes sub-national contexts, particularly for women. Moreover, it was not clear whether the 30% is referring to arable land, or to the number of women. For this reason, the group tried to emphasise the importance of generating and using appropriate knowledge, while recognising that this AU commitment is an important opportunity to be taken at the pan African level to further promote women’s land rights.

Specific actions were identified and suggested as follows:

- A system review is needed to assess ‘where we are now’ with respect to women’s land rights in Africa. This review, or baseline study, needs to provide data and evidence on the existing knowledge, the current practices and the actors holding the faculty to take decisions on land and natural resources (at all levels).
- Documenting and strengthening of women’s collective action to claim land rights in Africa.
- Study of actual barriers that prevent individual women from securing and enforcing their land rights, as well as the specific strategies adopted to overcome these barriers and contribute to systemic changes (capturing the lived experiences of women).
- Women as primary stakeholders should be part of all documentation processes.

Specific actors were also identified as potential targets:

- A potential scaling partner would be the AU, as previously mentioned, they have a goal that recommends for member states to “move towards allocation of 30% of land to women to improve the rights of women to land through legislative and other mechanisms by 2025” (UNECA, 2016).
- Local government, including technical officials are relevant actors as they are key actors in the implementation of policies, laws and related regulatory framework.
- Local authorities and traditional leaders need to be involved, as they hold the faculty to regulate land tenure and governance systems under customary systems. The customary systems are also often recognised by the statutory law, therefore the regulatory frameworks related to these traditional institutions need to be coherent with legal provisions protecting women’s rights.
- Women’s constituencies need to be identified as partners for scaling. In particular women’s constituencies should be part of the documentation process and able to identify networks, tools and organic processes in order to scale. Communities comprising both men and women needs to be involved in any action for a genuine systematic change.

In general terms, the proposed strategy for scaling up include three main steps:

1. Adapting the legal and programmatic tools to achieve more gender sensitive procedures and practices;
2. Institutionalising the good practices;
3. Scaling up.

The group also came out with a list of potential target countries, where the organisations represented by the participants in this working group are already active and proposing solutions:

- IFPRI and IWMI are conducting action research on women's land and water rights;
- The MFA operates in a number of target countries through the Dutch embassies in promoting land rights in development aid;
- ActionAid are implementing a scorecard tool to evaluate the implementation of the VGGTs;
- Oxfam are testing gendered tool to community engagement in Large Scale Land Based Investment and country based projects on right to food, which is specifically focused on women's land rights;
- GROOTS International and Huairou Commission are currently implementing strategies to organise and mobilise women grassroots movements. This would create a critical mass of actions and potential synergies in the selected countries.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The overarching commonality in scaling women land rights requires a multifaceted approach; there are not just one or even a few solutions. Some of the key conclusions reached at the expert meeting are:

- For generating research and evidence, new frontiers within land rights require further exploration. For instance, the focus of women's land rights has been predominantly in the rural context, whilst the urban context has somewhat been neglected. The future is not only about what we currently see that can be adapted and replicated but also to discover innovative practices that can be utilised as new options.
- Further research should also provide evidence that goes beyond land ownership and the productivity narrative. What are the implications for owning land and what about in the circumstances of communal land? Evidence is required that goes beyond formal land ownership. Even if women own the land, they may not be able to access and productively use the land due to traditional norms or lack of economic means.
- Women's land rights must be recognised as a complex issue and requires involving multiple stakeholders across multiple levels. Therefore, it is important to see how different institutions and stakeholders can realistically and effectively work together. This includes involving both women and men when informing policies/frameworks or working on a project at the local level.
- International and regional standards do not currently have an in-depth framework that analyses specific requirements or indicators on women's land rights to assess whether they are on the right track. Therefore, new M&E tools, such as the GEC, are prerequisites for measuring the progress of achieving women's land rights.
- The creation of a gendered curriculum taught at universities that combines technical skills with social science theory and practice, will ensure an integration of socio-technical aspects of land governance, land administration and social equity among future land governance professionals. Grassroots movements that focus on gender equality within land rights should be empowered, ensuring that women have active agency across all levels. Grassroots movements can also be a channel for advocacy, informing policymakers and applying pressure to governments for more action to improve the land rights of women. Inspiring leadership has to come from within the community rather than through a top-down approach, allowing people to relate and acquire a true understanding of the necessity of gender equality through their own experiences.

## **5. Appendix**

### **6. Annex 1. Women's Land Rights Declaration: A Roadmap towards Equity and Sustainability**

The meeting concluded with a joint declaration, which was agreed up by the workshop participants to focus on a number of strategies and actions.

#### **6.1 Preamble**

1. We, the participants in the Women's Land Rights Expert Meeting, specialists on land rights, women's land rights and women's rights, amongst us activists, scholars, policy makers, land professionals and practitioners;
2. Gathered in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands on 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016;
3. To: (a) identify the most promising experiences, ideas, and strategies to enhance and strengthen women's land rights, and; (b) develop road maps on what actions participants can take forward and suggest other actors to involve;
4. Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals; the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Conferences on Financing for Development; the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Land, Fisheries, and Forests; the Paris Agreement; the Marrakesh Declaration and Decision on Gender and Climate Change; The Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa; the Guiding Principles on Large Scale Land Based Investments in Africa; ILO Convention 169, and; the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Agree on the following;

#### **6.2 Vision**

A world in which land rights, land governance and land administration are gender equitable and form the foundation for inclusive and sustainable development.

#### **6.3 Goal**

Ensure that women and men have equal rights of access, control and ownership over land and natural resources: Therefore, we call for reforms that will increase the proportion of women with secure land rights.

#### **6.4 Best Practices**

Taking stock of our own experiences, available case studies and existing literature, we suggest the following best practices to guide work towards accomplishing the vision and will advocate for the integration of these practices in ongoing and future interventions on women's land rights and natural resource management:

1. There is no "one size fits all" solution for enhancing women's land rights. Any intervention has to be grounded in a local context and should involve grassroots organisations. It should take a holistic approach that acknowledges the complexity of

women's land rights, including the acknowledgement of the diversity of existing land rights and the options these offer to women.

2. Local women, men, communities and indigenous people are the experts, leaders and decision-makers on land issues in their localities. Their agency and empowerment are intrinsic parts of any intervention to enhance their land rights;
3. Women's land rights are part of the global sustainable development agenda, as well as an integral part of women's right to economic livelihoods and to basic human rights;
4. Guaranteeing women's land rights requires multi-stakeholder coalitions and alliances, involving actors with complementary competences, such as researchers, land administration professionals, policy makers, development practitioners, women's rights activists and grassroots movements. These coalitions and alliances need to operate at multiple levels from local to global, creating transformative linkages for systemic change;
5. Women's land rights interventions require long-term processes and commitments, requiring resources for the strengthening of local organisations and an alignment of interventions and resources at different levels from local to global.
6. Women's land rights interventions require learning oriented approaches that inform and adjust these interventions, based upon the creation of evidence from lived experiences of women;
7. Strong, fit-for-purpose systems for land administration are needed, as well as progressive laws that secure women's land rights, taking into account the diversity of rights in each particular context.

## **6.5 Strategies**

The following commonly identified strategies will contribute effectively to ensure women's land rights:

1. Supporting and enhancing grassroots movements and female leadership in civic and professional groups, ultimately resulting in self-sustaining alliances;
2. Strengthening the evidence base to formulate and communicate key messages to inform policymakers, grassroots movements, activists, practitioners, and professionals;
3. Strengthening and supporting appropriate land administration and governance considering access to justice, dispute resolution and sustainable livelihoods;
4. Influencing and making strategic use of (inter)national guidelines, standards, procedures, and practices applicable to a multiplicity of stakeholders including governments, financial institutions, investors, and private sector actors. This includes ensuring equitable access to grievance mechanisms;
5. Developing curricula that integrate social, cultural, technical and environmental dimensions and build capacity for a new generation of practitioners, professionals and researchers in land and NR governance and land administration.

## **6.6 Inspiring Initiatives**

Informed by the best practices and the strategies, a number of inspiring initiatives were elaborated for further action:

- In Uttarpradesh and Uttarakhand in India, the objective is to redistribute land to Dalit and Tharu people including the registration of at least 30% of land to women. As a main

strategy, a court case is currently being filed by grassroots organisations to enforce the implementation of the 1960s Land Ceiling law meant to ensure land access to landless people. Grassroots organisations that include Dalit and Tharu people will collaborate with researchers to foster these rights. Once precedence under this law has been created, experiences will be shared with similar people in India and Nepal. Ensuring Dalit and Tharu women access to land is expected to increase their participation in decision making and access to production opportunities and decent jobs.

- In Peru and Brazil and in the wider Mercosur community multi-stakeholder networks and platforms, operating at different scales to address women’s land rights. The annually held Family Farming Specialised Meetings held in the Mercosur region constitute one of the entry points for finding synergies and identifying mutual interests to foster women’s land rights in land governance. Support to this can be provided in the form of peer-to-peer sharing and learning and provision of technical and financial support to the initiative.
- The Pan-African Land Policy Initiative can play an important role to close the land rights gaps for women, and specifically the achievement of the target that a minimum of 30% of registered land must go to women by 2025. For this to happen, networks, partners and champions, including communities, local governments need to be supported. Evidence provided by researchers and tools adapted for more gender sensitive procedures could support the institutionalisation of good practices at different scales in African countries.
- The establishment of an intensive global capacity development programme, rooted in practice in different contexts will strengthen the ability of activists, professionals, development practitioners and policy makers to advance women’s land rights. This will draw on research and learning from experience to build knowledge, action and collaboration to ensure women gain access and control over more land and natural resources within effective gendered land governance and administration systems.

## 6.7 The Way Forward

We continue working together towards the achievement of the abovementioned goal, vision in line with the best practices, the strategies and the inspiring examples.

We further call upon governments and other duty bearers to enhance women’s land rights in line with this declaration.

## 7. Annex 2. List of Participants

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Wegerif, Marc	Oxfam

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