

Final Title: ***“Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration Tools and Approaches”***

Abstract:

United Nations Secretary- General, Ban Ki-moon, declares that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been the most successful global anti-poverty “push” in history, and that the number of people living in extreme poverty has now been halved (United Nations, 2013). This is indeed good news. However, the challenge of poverty reduction is still very significant. The UN-Habitat publication State of the World’s Cities (2010/2011), highlighted that the world’s slum population is expected to increase to 1.4 billion by 2020, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (2011) has pointed out that, despite significant progress in reducing poverty - particularly in East Asia - there are still about 1.4 billion people living on less than USD US\$1.25 a day, and close to 1 billion people are suffering from hunger.

While there are various key strategies and interventions in addressing poverty reduction, and sustainable development in general, land governance initiatives are increasingly becoming critically important. In this context, the need for pro-poor, gender responsive and fit for purpose land administration system is strategic and critical, also to support post-MDGs objectives. The Global Land Tool Network and its more than 65 international partners have been developing several key land governance tools and approaches. These tools aimed at supporting the call for “securing land and property rights for all” within the continuum of land rights approach and good land governance principles.

This paper will introduce the work of GLTN and its rationale in recognizing the continuum of land rights approach and in developing fit-for-purpose land administration tools and approaches. It will introduce some of these tools, their relevance, key features, some examples of implementation and their potential contributions in addressing the emerging land governance challenges. It will argue that there is an urgent need for the adoption and implementation of these tools and approaches particularly for developing countries. As a way of conclusion, it will urge land institutions and professionals to rethink their existing strategies and the way they do their current business in the sector and it will encourage them to move towards a more sustainable, inclusive and innovative land administration solutions.