



**Second Arab Land Conference**  
**Concept Note**  
**Monday, 22 February 2021**  
**(12:30 to 14:00pm, Cairo, Egypt time - UTC/GMT +2)**

| Round Table 1: Good Land Governance and Land Degradation Neutrality  |  |
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| <b>Organisation(s) name(s)</b>   | Co-organized by FAO and UNCCD  |
| <b>Focal point contact information</b><br>(for the round table)  | Aurelie Bres (FAO), Marcos Montoiro (UNCCD)                                      |
| <b>Email of contact person(s)</b>  | Bres, Aurelie (NSL) <Aurelie.Bres@fao.org> Marcos Montoiro <mmontoiro@unccd.int> |
| Context  |  |
| <p>The 14th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD (COP14) requested the UNCCD Secretariat, in collaboration with the FAO to prepare a technical guide on how to integrate the <i>Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure on Land, Fisheries and Forest in the context of National Food Security</i> (VGGT) into the implementation of the Convention, in order to achieve the target of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). Findings of the technical guide are to be presented to the Parties at COP15 for its consideration.</p> <p>The FAO is supporting the UNCCD Secretariat to produce the technical guide for integration of the VGGT in the implementation of UNCCD and LDN. Since June 2020, FAO in collaboration with UNCCD have organized a series of inclusive multi-stakeholder e-consultations for preparation of the guide. Land degradation neutrality and responsible land governance are natural allies for the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Implementing the VGGT principles in policy and practice and implementing LDN projects and programmes are both inherently complex and challenging.</p> <p>This technical guide is unique in nature as it provides an overarching framework for action by integrating elements of all the available VGGT technical guides produced (12 technical guides to date) as part of FAO's initiative to help develop capacities to improve tenure governance. The technical guide, currently under preparation, will formulate potential pathways on how to apply the VGGT principles to achieve LDN. These pathways address common land tenure challenges which could hamper the achievement of the LDN and SDG 15. Addressing these land tenure challenges will also contribute to achieving other SDGs (SDG 1 - No Poverty, SDG 2 - Zero Hunger, and SDG 5 - Gender Equality). The technical guide aims to present policy and decision makers with concise and clear actions that can be taken to address common land tenure challenges to achieve LDN. It incorporates nine pathways as a series of actions cutting across: <i>legal and policy framework, targeted policy coordination mechanisms, women's use and ownership rights to land, integrated land use planning, accessible grievance and redress mechanisms, tenure rights on public lands, sustainable management of commons, private lands and land consolidation.</i></p> |  |



**Food and Agriculture  
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دائرة الأراضي والأماكن  
Land Department



| Objectives of the round table  |   |   |
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| <p>The nexus between governance of tenure and land degradation neutrality is of a complex, multi-factual and multi-scale (national/subnational/local) nature. The round table will support an increased understanding of the land degradation – land tenure nexus and will discuss the specificities of land tenure in the context of desertification, land degradation and drought in the Arab region. The round table aims to raise awareness on available guidelines on sustainable land management and to build capacities for the implementation of responsible land governance in land-related programmes and interventions. Based on the experience in some Arab countries, this round table will further aim to receive the feedback on the draft guide and the pathways mentioned above.</p> <p><b>The key objectives of the round table include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on the relevance of governance of tenure for land degradation neutrality</li> <li>• Presentation of the draft Technical Guide and the nine pathways</li> <li>• Sharing experiences on the linkages between land degradation and land governance in the Arab region</li> <li>• Receive feedback on the technical guide which is under preparation</li> </ul> |   |   |
| Expected outcomes  |   |   |
| <p><b>The key expected outcomes are:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increased understanding of the land degradation – land tenure nexus,</li> <li>2. Better integration the specificities of land tenure in the context of desertification, land degradation and drought in the Arab region</li> <li>3. Enrich the technical guide with feedbacks and examples from the Arab region</li> <li>4. Raise awareness and build capacities for the implementation of responsible land governance in land-related programmes and interventions</li> </ol>  |   |   |
| Provisional agenda   |   |   |
| Time   | Agenda item   | Presenters / Roles  |
| 10 mins  | <p><b>Opening and setting the scene: linkages between land degradation and land governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How responsible land governance provides an enabling environment for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and COP 14 decision related to land tenure presented by UNCCD</li> <li>• How integrating land tenure security and LDN is key for achieving multiple SDGs and implementation of the 2030 agenda, multi-stakeholder consultation and current status of the technical guide will be presented by FAO</li> </ul> | <p>Ms. Miriam Medel García, <i>Chief of the External Relations, Policy and Advocacy Unit (ERPA) of the Secretariat of UNCCD</i></p> <p>Ms. Vera Boerger, <i>Senior Land and Water Officer, FAO</i></p>  |
| 40 mins  | <p><b>Sharing country/ regional experiences from the Arab region of bridging the gap between VGGT and LDN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations from the national experts of regional organizations/ countries followed by open discussion and mutual exchanges on the specificities of the land degradation – land tenure nexus for the Arab region; the challenges and the opportunities</li> </ul>  | <p>→<b>Egypt</b>- Prof. Dr. Ahmed Abdelati, <i>UNCCD Operational Focal Point &amp; Science and Technology Correspondent (STC) - Desert Research Centre (DRC) - Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALAR)</i></p> <p>→<b>Tunisia</b>: Ms. Wissal Gharbi, <i>the Tunisian Agricultural Land Agency</i></p> <p>→ <b>Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS)</b> – Ms. Petra Samaha, <i>PhD Candidate in Sociology and Urban Studies - Sciences Po, Paris</i></p> |

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| 35 mins   | <b>Feedback and inputs on the draft technical guide</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the draft technical guide including pathways for the integration of responsible land governance into the implementation of UNCCD and to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality, followed by open discussion and receiving feedback</li> </ul> | Dr. Jes Weigelt, Head of Programmes, TMG Research gGmbH<br><br>Discussion facilitated by FAO |
| 5 mins  | Wrap up session with final remarks  | FAO/ UNCCD   |
| Rapporteur : Ms. Yasmeen Telwala (FAO); Ms. Enni Kallio (UNCCD) |   |  |