



## Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2011

# Land Policy: A Key Factor in Combating Hunger

The Role of African Regional Organisations

Hotel Voltaire, Potsdam  
15-16 April 2011

## Programme

### Cooperating Partners



Conference languages  
English/French (Simultaneous Interpretation), German



The Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2011 are co-financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

## Background

Food insecurity is one of the most urgent problems facing the world today. Although the right to food has been recognised as a human right, the food status of more than one billion people in 2010 was considered to be insecure. The most vulnerable people are those living in rural areas, more than half of whom are women and children. Access to land and land tenure are key factors for food security. For example, more than half the population in sub-Saharan Africa is dependent on subsistence farming as their only livelihood source. However, this is under massive threat, due to often inadequate safeguards on access to land, inequitable distribution of agricultural land, and its increasing scarcity as a result of population growth and the adverse effects of climate change. The extent to which subsistence farming is a type of land use which can make an effective contribution to improving food security for larger sections of the population is also a controversial issue. National and international actors exacerbate the situation: speculation on agricultural commodities is driving up food prices, and the increasing tendency of domestic and foreign governments and investors to buy up agricultural land in Africa, known as land grabbing, is also reducing the availability of farmland. On the other hand, investment by national and international actors creates the opportunity and the impetus for much-needed modernisation of the agricultural sector, combined with a significant increase in productivity.

Due to the close linkage between land ownership and food security, an effective and sustainable land policy plays a vital role in increasing food security on a regional and transregional basis. This raises the question of which specific governance measures should be adopted in response to the challenges outlined while taking adequate account of stakeholders' needs. The Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2011 will focus, in this context, on African regional organisations – primarily the African Union (AU) but also the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) – which have adopted a range of land policy initiatives over recent years. The Spring Dialogues will undertake an initial review of the measures adopted and identify the potential for a regionally coordinated land policy. A further question to be considered is the extent to which the African regional organisations can serve as a link and channel of communication to the international community and can thus help to shape the global framework conditions for a responsible land policy.

After two introductory inputs on the importance of land policy in the context of food security, the first panel will consider the basic challenges relating to land policy and will discuss appropriate governance measures for the national level. The activities of the African regional organisations will then be considered in a second step, and the relevant strategy papers will be critically reviewed. The third panel will focus on the ambivalent role of the EU and the World Bank, both of which provide support for land reforms but whose activities in other policy areas (agricultural policy, promotion of biofuels) conflict with the aim of improving food security. The final panel will consider the African regional organisations' expectations of the international community, with a particular focus on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as a key actor in this context.

**Friday, 15 April 2011**

09:30 hrs          Registration

**Welcome**

10.00 hrs          **Henning Heidemanns**  
State Secretary  
Brandenburg Ministry of Economic and European Affairs, Potsdam

**Part I**

**The Importance of Land Policy for Food Security**  
**Land Policy as a Regional Challenge**

Chair

**Dr Henning Melber**  
Executive Director  
Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Uppsala  
Member of the Advisory Board of the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF)

10.15 hrs          Welcome Speech  
**Günter Nooke**  
German Chancellor's G8 Personal Representative for Africa  
in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and  
Development (BMZ), Berlin

10.30 hrs          Opening Speeches  
**Dr David Nabarro**  
- video message -  
Special Representative of the UN Secretary General  
for Food Security and Nutrition  
United Nations, New York  
**Ousseini Salifou**  
Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources  
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Abuja

11.00 hrs          Plenary Discussion

12.00 hrs          Lunch

## Part II

### My Land – Your Land?

#### Land Policy Challenges and Possible Governance Measures as a Response to them

#### Background

The challenges relating to land policy and land tenure are numerous and diverse and arise at various levels. In many sub-Saharan countries, agricultural land is distributed inequitably (dominance of “white” landowners, lack of access rights for various ethnic groups, migrants and women). A lack of legal security in relation to land ownership and management, and legal pluralism – i.e. the co-existence of national laws and local/traditional arrangements – are further problems. Much-needed land and agricultural reforms often fail due to a lack of implementing mechanisms, expertise, and clarification of competences (central or local), and in most cases stakeholders are not involved to an adequate extent. This panel will analyse in more detail the challenges relating to land distribution, land tenure and land policy and will explore possible measures as a response to them.

#### Key Questions

- How can the lack of clarity over land ownership and tenure in many African regions be overcome? Which processes need to be initiated here? What are the advantages and disadvantages of centralised/decentralised solutions?
- Which forms of ownership and tenure promote sustainable land policy?
- How can stakeholders – especially the rural population – and civil society be involved to an adequate extent in the formulation and implementation of land policy?
- Which governance measures and mechanisms are required in order to establish effective and participatory land policy on a long-term basis?

Chair

**Dr Uwe Hoering**

Freelance Journalist and Policy Analyst, Bonn

13.30 hrs

Introduction

**Dr Prosper Matondi**

Executive Director  
Ruzivo Trust, Harare

13.50 hrs

Discussion with further panellists

**Maren Kneller**

Policy Advisor  
Rural Development, Global Food Security  
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn

**Angeline Munzara**

Food Campaign Coordinator  
Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, Geneva

14.30 hrs

Plenary Discussion

15.30 hrs

Coffee Break

## Part III

### African Regional Organisations as Catalysts? Opportunities for Regional Land Policy Initiatives

#### Background

Although land policy is mainly part of the national policy portfolio, African regional organisations have increasingly focussed on this topic in recent years and have produced a number of strategy papers. The African Union (AU), for example, together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), adopted the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa in 2009. The basic aim is to formulate shared principles and proposals for the implementation of effective land policy at the national level and mobilise expertise. However, the extent to which regional initiatives can contribute to more effective solutions, and the prospects of these solutions being implemented at national level, are still unanswered questions.

#### Key Questions

- What are the advantages of regional land policy initiatives?
- What is the status of the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa? What should be the next steps? Which challenges can be identified in this context?
- What kind of land policy programmes were initiated by ECOWAS? What is the general assessment of these initiatives?
- What is the response to regional initiatives at national level, and how are they implemented?

Chair

**Sebastian Schublach**

Head of Department of International Politics  
Renner Institute, Vienna

16.00 hrs

Introduction

**Dr Hubert Ouedraogo**

Lead Land Expert  
Secretariat of the AU-ECA-AfDB joint Land Policy Initiative  
UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Addis Ababa

16.20 hrs

Discussion with further panellists

**Albert Engel**

Director  
Department for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Eschborn

**Jesinta Kunda**

Coordinator for Kitwe District Land Alliance (KDLA), Kitwe  
Zambia Land Alliance (ZLA)

**Ousseini Salifou**

Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources  
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Abuja

17.00-18.00 hrs

Plenary Discussion

### Cultural Programme and Reception

19.00 hrs

Sightseeing tour through the City of Potsdam

20.00 hrs

Reception hosted by the Minister-President of Land Brandenburg  
represented by

**Henning Heidemanns**

State Secretary  
Brandenburg Ministry of Economic and European Affairs, Potsdam

**Saturday, 16 April 2011**

**Part IV**

**“Spoilers” or Supporters?**

**The Influence of the EU and the World Bank and their Cooperation with the AU and the RECs**

**Background**

The EU and the World Bank play an ambivalent role in relation to the land policy challenges facing sub-Saharan Africa. Through numerous activities in land policy they contribute to problem solving, but some critics say that the focus on individual land titles and the demand for more liberalisation of agricultural markets exacerbate the existing problems. Furthermore the EU's growing interest in bio-fuels threatens to intensify land grabbing processes. The panel will therefore focus on the chances and problems of EU's and World Bank's development policy measures and discusses prospects for greater cooperation with the African regional organisations.

**Key Questions**

- What kind of land policy programmes are initiated or supported by the EU and the World Bank? What is the general assesment of these initiatives?
- How should the problem of land grabbing be dealt with? What role do EU and World Bank play in this context?
- In how far do EU and World Bank cooperate with African regional organisations concerning land policy? Can, and should, the regional organisations be involved more fully in the formulation of EU/World Bank policy?

Chair

**Dr Günther Taube**

Director

Department for Good Governance and Social Development

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Bonn

09.00 hrs

Introduction

**Dr Rogier van den Brink**

Lead Economist

Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Department

The World Bank, Washington D.C.

09.20 hrs

Discussion with further panellists

**Dr Leonard Mizzi**

Head of Unit

DG Agriculture and Rural Development

European Commission, Brussels

**Michael Windfuhr**

Deputy Director

German Institute for Human Rights, Berlin

10.00 hrs

Plenary Discussion

11.00 hrs

Coffee Break

## Part V

### African Regional Organisations – a Channel of Communication?

#### Opportunities for African Regional Organisations to Help Shape the International Framework for a Responsible Land Policy

##### Background

The purpose of the final panel is to summarise the previous contributions to the discussion and consider the African regional organisations' expectations of the international community and international processes in relation to the formulation of a sustainable land policy which aims to promote food security. Besides the World Bank and EU policies, the panel will focus particularly on the Food and Agriculture Organization's Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which is playing an increasingly significant role in coordinating and facilitating exchange between the governmental level and civil society.

##### Key Questions

- What do the African regional organisations expect from the international community in terms of strengthening food security in Africa and, in particular, promoting a sustainable land policy?
- What do the African regional organisations hope that the Committee on World Food Security will achieve through its work?
- To what extent do the EU and Germany share these expectations? How can the EU and Germany provide pro-active support, if appropriate?
- To what extent are the African regional organisations able and empowered to act as a channel through which to communicate their members' interests in a sustainable land policy at the international level?

Chair

**Dr Klemens van de Sand**

Member of the Advisory Board of the  
Development and Peace Foundation (SEF), Bonn

11.30 hrs

Input

**Dr Abebe Haile Gabriel**

Director  
Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture  
African Union Commission (AUC), Addis Ababa

12.00 hrs

Response and Discussion

**Noel De Luna**

Chairman  
Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Rome

**Birgit Gerhardus**

Senior Policy Advisor  
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn

**Elisa Manukjan**

Division for the Global Food Situation and  
International Food and Agriculture Organisations  
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV), Berlin

12.30 hrs

Plenary Discussion

13.30 hrs

Closing remarks by the Organisers

**Dr Michèle Roth**

Executive Director  
Development and Peace Foundation (SEF), Bonn