



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Multi-stakeholder platforms

Building on FAO's experience



For improved governance of tenure

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Multi-stakeholder platform composition

- **Broad participation**
- **Examples of MSP members:**
 - ▶ Government (national, local)
 - ▶ CSOs (peasants, pastoralists, fishermen organizations)
 - ▶ NGOs
 - ▶ Women and youth organizations
 - ▶ Indigenous leaders
 - ▶ Private sector
 - ▶ Academia
 - ▶ Professional bodies (notaries, geographers, lawyers, etc.)
 - ▶ Technical and financial partners

This brochure presents fundamental principles, factors of success and practical experience of MSPs, all supported by FAO as part of the land tenure programme. This guide also demonstrates how MSPs help support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

What an MSP can do:

- Facilitate and promote policy and legal reforms
Wide-ranging consensus fosters policy and legal frameworks producing lasting outcomes at all levels, encouraging continuity.
- Create a neutral space for tenure issues
The open atmosphere in an MSP promotes relationships based on trust, mutual respect and communication.
- Promote buy-in for responsible governance of tenure
Involving stakeholders from government agencies increases the likelihood of approval of initiatives.
- Support tenure processes based on ownership
Promoting national stakeholder ownership will encourage engagement and support for reform initiatives.
- Contribute to improved governance of tenure
Create a space for national stakeholders to develop mechanisms and indicators for monitoring of land tenure processes.

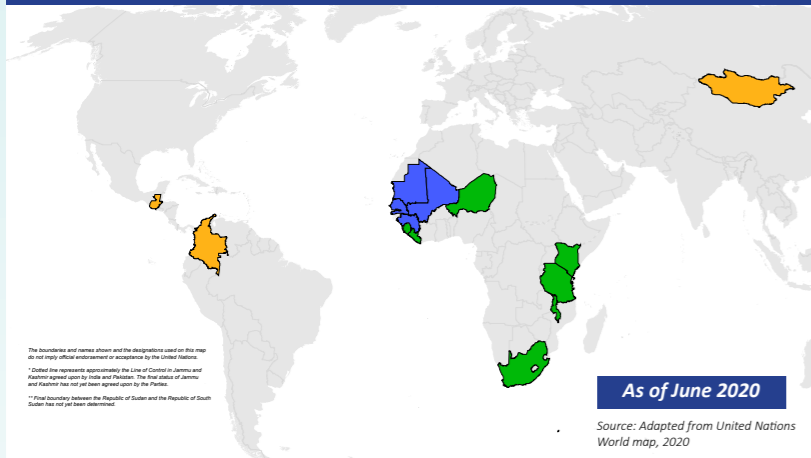
Leveraging the VGGT

FAO has successfully assisted countries in implementing paragraph 26.2 of the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* (VGGT):

“26.2 States are encouraged to set up multi-stakeholder platforms and frameworks at local, national and regional levels or use such existing platforms and frameworks to collaborate on the implementation of these Guidelines; to monitor and evaluate the implementation in their jurisdictions; and to evaluate the impact on improved governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests, and on improving food security and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, and sustainable development”.



Supporting MSPs at national, local and regional level



■ National MSP
 ■ Local MSP
 ■ Regional and national MSP

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MSPs: An innovative concept of partnerships

Building on the definition given by the UN General Assembly (UNGA, 2015), MSPs seek to be forward-thinking, to make voluntary and collaborative relationships possible regarding land tenure issues between various parties. They involve both public and non-public entities that can achieve common purposes, offer a neutral space for policy dialogue or undertake specific tasks and, as mutually agreed, share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits.



Multi-stakeholder platforms: Success stories

Mongolia

In Mongolia — in provinces where customary law still largely applies and women have few rights to ownership or inheritance — developing an equitable tenure system is a challenge. Through multi-stakeholder platforms, investment in capacity development and awareness raising via learning programmes, acceptance of new laws is now a reality.

Other countries looking to revise their tenure laws may consider the following actions taken in Mongolia:

- Ensure there is the political will to reform tenure related policies.
- Establish an institutional framework that embodies the VGGT giving the country a sense of ownership.
- Conduct awareness raising and capacity development activities at all levels, particularly at grassroots level where local communities are involved in the process.

An effective approach was converting the VGGT into simple and understandable text in the local language.



Mali

In Mali, the role of the national MSP and the local MSP in Kayes have largely contributed to supporting land governance initiatives based on VGGT principles. At the national level, the new Agricultural Land Act preparation was based on the VGGT inclusive approach. Passed in April 2017 this Act reflects some of the main VGGT principles, providing a decentralized land governance through the establishment of village commissions on tenure (*Commissions foncières villageoises – COFO*). Today the VGGT constitute a reference to engage in a national land reform process (*Réforme domaniale et foncière*).



At local level in the Kayes region, ten COFOs have been established on the basis of new law stipulations and VGGT principles. They will enable the implementation of other aspects of the new Agricultural Land Law, to help manage land tenure conflicts at local level while strengthening social cohesion and gender equality. According to Ms Mariam Sissoko, a local female leader in Kayes: “village commissions on tenure enable women to claim their rights and will facilitate their participation in decision-making processes.” The results obtained through this MSP had led to the creation of local forestry commissions, demonstrating how MSPs help achieve responsible land tenure governance in Mali.

**For more information: www.fao.org/tenure
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