

Working Group 1

Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests

Languages: English, French, Spanish

Venue: Europasaal

(1) Topic outline

The working group will develop the debate of the opening plenary session regarding the current challenges for secure and equitable access to natural resources. It will focus clearly on the process of formulating the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and their future implementation, and will develop recommendations for action to be taken in this regard.

(2) Aim of the working group

Following the adjournment of negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in October 2011, the aim of the working group is to help promote the process of negotiation as well as to draw up proposals for implementing the Guidelines at national, regional and international levels. The parties will look in detail at the course of the negotiations to date, their expectations in terms of the remaining negotiation process as well as the practical importance of the Voluntary Guidelines. The particular focus here will be on part 7 of the Guidelines, namely implementation, monitoring and evaluation, which has yet to be negotiated.

The aim of the working group is to secure the commitment of all parties (UN agencies, governments, civil society, academia and the private sector) to work towards the rapid conclusion of negotiations, the approval of the document by the CFS as well as its publication and implementation.

(3) Specific questions to the working group

Lead questions

- *Platform for supporting the negotiation process:* What is required in order to bring the negotiations regarding the outstanding parts of the Guidelines to a successful conclusion in 2012?
- How can the Voluntary Guidelines be implemented effectively and how can they contribute towards food security and nutrition?

Working questions

Negotiation process:

- Reflections on the negotiation process to date
- Exchange of ideas regarding the content of part 7 of the Guidelines, namely implementation, monitoring and evaluation – without prejudice to the next round of negotiations at the CFS in Rome.

Implementation of the Guidelines:

- How are the Guidelines to be implemented at global, regional, national and local level and what can the separate parties (governments, parliaments, international organisations, private sector, civil society) do to help in this regard?
- What expectations do the parties have of one another?

- Which structures or networks would be preferable for the implementation of the Guidelines?
- What experiences can be used from the implementation of comparable documents (e.g. lessons learned from implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food)?
- Which other international processes can be influenced by, and receive input from the Voluntary Guidelines?

Process orientation

- The findings of the working group should help towards concluding the negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and promoting the publication and implementation of the Guidelines.
- The working group's recommendations for implementing the Guidelines will be forwarded to the FAO, IFAD, World Bank, African Union and other relevant organisations.

(4) Reference documents:

CFS	CFS Website on Land Tenure http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-home/land-tenure/en/
	Consolidated Changes to the First Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (12-15 July and 10-15 October 2011) http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/nr/land_tenure/pdf/First_Draft_VG_with_changes_October_2011_English.pdf
FAO	Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security http://www.fao.org/righttofood/publi_01_en.htm
OHCHR	Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/housing/docs/guidelines_en.pdf