



African Union



African Development Bank



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

## LAND POLICY INITIATIVE

*Draft*

**Land Policy Initiative Steering Committee**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2017**

**African Union Commission Conference Center**

**Addis Ababa**

## **Participants**

### Full members

Dr. Janet Edeme, AUC  
Dr. Stephen Karingi, ECA  
Mr. Jean-Louis Kromer, AfDB  
Mr. Ladislaus Kyaruzi, EAC  
Mr. Remy Mukongo, ECCAS  
Mr. Eshete Dejen, IGAD  
Mr. Innocent Makwiramiti, COMESA  
Mr. Ernest Aubee, ECOWAS  
Mr. Galal Nasser, PAP  
Ms. Fatma Ben Rejeb, PAFO  
Mr. Martin Bwalya, NEPAD  
Mr. Marlon Lezama, ECA

### LPI secretariat

Dr. Joan Kagwanja  
Dr. Hubert Ouedraogo  
Mr. Ayehualem Tameru  
Dr. Judy Wambui Kariuki  
Dr. Wordsworth O. Larbi  
Mr. Mackay Rigava  
Ms. Hirut Girma  
Ms. Wubit Girma  
Mr. Daniel Kefale, LPI  
Ms. Keymisrak Berhanu

### Observer members

Mr. Pietro Nardi, EUD  
Ms. Rebecca Ochong, UN-Habitat  
Mr. Harold Liversage, IFAD  
Ms. Elisa Mandelli, IFAD  
Mr. Wouter Coussement, ECA

### Absent with apologies:

Mr. Opio-Omoding James Peters, AfDB  
Mr. Andrew Hilton, FAO  
Mr. Alex Banda, SADC  
Mr. Hammadi Benhabtali, UMA  
Dr. Belay Demissie, LPI secretariat

## Abbreviations and acronyms

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| ACG        | African Centre for Gender  |
| AfDB       | African Development Bank   |
| ALPC       | African Land Policy Center   |
| AU         | African Union  |
| AUC        | African Union Commission   |
| CDD        | Capacity Development Division (of the Economic Commission for Africa)  |
| COMESA     | Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa  |
| DREA       | Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (of the African Union Commission)  |
| EAC        | East African Community   |
| ECA        | Economic Commission for Africa   |
| EU         | European Union   |
| EUD        | European Union Delegation to the African Union   |
| F&G        | Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa  |
| FAO        | Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations   |
| FATA       | Forum for African Traditional Authorities  |
| GIZ        | German Technical Cooperation   |
| IDEP       | African Institute for Economic Development and Planning  |
| IFAD       | International Fund for Agricultural Development  |
| IGAD       | Intergovernmental Authority on Development   |
| JWGL       | Joint Working Group on Land (LPI)  |
| LPI        | Land Policy Initiative   |
| LSLBI      | Large Scale Land Based Investment  |
| MELA       | Monitoring and Evaluation of Land in Africa  |
| NAIPs      | National Agricultural Investment Plans   |
| NAP        | Nairobi Action Plan  |
| NELGA      | Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa   |
| PAFO       | Pan African Farmers Organization   |
| PRMS/SPOQD | Partnership and Resource Mobilization Section (of Strategic Planning and Quality Assurance Division) of ECA                          |
| RECs       | regional economic communities  |
| SDGs       | Sustainable Development Goals  |
| VGGT       | Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security |

## **1. Opening and welcome remarks**

Dr. Janet Edeme, Chair of the Land Policy Initiative (LPI) Steering Committee from the African Union Commission (AUC), welcomed the Steering Committee members and observers to AUC and to the meeting. She extended an invitation to representatives of the tripartite partners to make opening remarks.

Mr. Kromer, representing the African Development Bank (AfDB), thanked the Chair. He recalled his initial role during the formation of LPI and expressed his satisfaction on the progress made to advance the African Union agenda on land. He briefed the committee and observers on the new five strategic directions of the AfDB that included “feed Africa”, where land governance was one of the key priorities. He informed the Committee that the Bank was undergoing restructuring: most of the investment decisions were to be handled by regional departments, and requested the regional economic communities (RECs) to be aware of that new development.

The Chair thanked Mr. Kromer and requested representatives of the (RECs) to take note of the new development from AfDB. She then invited representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to make opening remarks.

Dr. Karingi, on behalf of ECA, welcomed members and observers to the LPI Steering Committee. In his opening remarks, he reiterated the full commitment of ECA to the continued support of LPI and its transition to the African Land Policy Center (ALPC). He further underscored the fact that it was unthinkable to achieve the aspiration of African Union as articulated in Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development if the land issues in the continent were not tackled.

Dr. Edeme, in her opening remarks, informed the participants that the African Union Commission was under new leadership. She reiterated that land issues were an integral part of Agenda 2063 and the ten-year plan of the African Union Commission. She emphasized from the onset that there were some issues requiring the guidance of the Committee: the five-year strategic plan of LPI was coming to a close; there was a need for a transitional phase of LPI to ALPC; and facing the question of how to maintain the momentum garnered as a result of LPI endeavours in the last nine years against the possible lack of funds.

She further stressed that setting up ALPC was the responsibility of all the members of the Steering Committee and called for the full engagement of members to support the tripartite partners to establish ALPC.

Finally, the Chair thanked the LPI secretariat for organizing a very fruitful planning and review meeting, which, she emphasized, was a very good opportunity for coordination and enhanced alignment among stakeholders engaged in implementing the African Union agenda on land.

## **2. Introduction of participants**

Following the opening, the Chair requested members and observers in attendance to introduce themselves.

## **3. Adoption of the agenda**

Following the presentation by the Chair, the Steering Committee adopted the agenda (see annex 2).

*Decision: Agenda adopted as presented.*

## **4. Matters arising from the previous Steering Committee meetings**

### **4.1 Summary of progress made in implementing previous Steering Committee decisions**

Dr. Kagwanja, Chief of LPI secretariat, on behalf of the secretariat welcomed members and observers of the Committee. She extended her warm welcome to the representative of Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO), who was attending the meeting for the first time.

Extending her appreciation to the Chair, members and observers of the Steering Committee for their continued commitments, Dr. Kagwanja presented the progress made in implementing the decisions of the Steering Committee.

Highlights of her presentation included:

- The secretariat prepared documentation on the transition from LPI to ALPC, addressing- the activities to be undertaken with proposed timelines supporting the ALPC transition;
- The Secretariat had consulted and engaged with partners in finalizing the ALPC strategic plan to ensure coordination and mobilized resources;
- Little progress had been made on the (three) decisions made by the Steering Committee at different meetings in relation to the European Union and FAO to engage with LPI in the development of the next phase of European Union country projects;
- The secretariat was consulting partners to find ways and modalities to establish a functional donors' platform for effectiveness and better coordination;
- To garner support and seek complementarity on the different studies being conducted in the area of conflict, the secretariat was working closely with the Capacity Development Division of ECA;
- The decision that pertained to regional farmers' platforms to develop joint project and work plans in the context of the RECs and the regional-level agenda was being initiated in the context of the IGAD project;

- The secretariat was following up with Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) and the AUC to look for an alternative member State to host the Conference on Land Policy in Africa;
- The secretariat had expedited implementation of the monitoring and evaluation component of the LPI work plan.

### Status of progress in implementing the decisions undertaken by the Steering Committee

Table 1  
Steering Committee decisions

| Decision | Task   | Role               | Update   |
|----------|--|--------------------|--|
| 1        | The CSO platform to be formally invited to LPI Steering Committee as an observer (Nov 2015)  | AUC                | Not yet done   |
| 2        | Prepare documentation on what the transition to ALPC will entail, the activities to be undertaken with proposed timelines supporting the transition to ALPC [Dec 2016]   | LPI/JWGL           | Documents prepared – awaiting input and guidance from management   |
| 3        | Share the ToRs of the LPI Steering Committee to all members [Dec 2016]   | LPI                | Done   |
| 4        | Consider the proposal of the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) platform to co-host in deciding venue for the next Steering Committee Meeting [Dec 2016]  | JWGL               | Done – decision made to have the meeting in Addis Ababa, due to Joint AUC/ECA Conference of Ministers (COM) engagement prior to LPI Steering Committee meeting |
| 5        | PRMS/ECA to participate in the LPI Steering Committee meeting as member [Dec 2016]   | LPI                | Done – PRMS/SPOQD now attending LPI Steering Committee meetings  |
| 6        | Consult and engage with partners in finalizing the ALPC strategic plan to ensure coordination and mobilize resources [Dec 2016]  | LPI/JWGL           | In progress (ongoing)  |
| 7        | CSO platform LOA to be prepared/ funds provided to implement various activities (Nov 2015)   | LPI & CSO platform | In progress – to support Strategy for CSO Platform to facilitate work plans and LOA  |
| 8        | Seek modalities for a long-term solution to expedite fund transfer to improve implementation of various projects (Nov 2015)  | ECA/PRMS           | In progress – improvements in LOA/funds transfer   |
| 9        | EUD/FAO to engage with LPI in development of next phase of country projects/ enhance government involvement/political support to projects (May 2015)<br>Clarify LPI's engagement in the EU/FAO land governance programmes (Nov 2015) | EU, FAO, LPI       | Not done – need for engagement with EUD and FAO  |

| Decision | Task  | Role             | Update   |
|----------|---|------------------|--|
|          | Initiate discussion and resolve the issues with EU and FAO [Dec 2016]   |                  |  |
| 10       | Expedite signing of LOA with EAC [April 2016]   | LPI              | In progress – seminar conducted in Arusha in December; EAC technical working group for land established and working with LPI   |
| 11       | Establish functional donors’ platform for effectiveness and better coordination [April 2016]  | LPI              | Done – holding regular joint meetings of partners in development and implementation  |
| 12       | Build synergies with relevant partners in implementing the LPI Monitoring and Evaluation Framework [April 2016]   | LPI              | Done – partnership agreement signed with IFPRI; IFPRI organized consultation in March 2017 and continental multi-stakeholder inception planned to be held in May   |
| 13       | LPI – NPCA requested to hold conversation and finalize the joint programmes immediately [Dec 2016]  | LPI and NPCA     | In progress – discussions held in December and April   |
| 14       | Continue with the development of partnership strategies and step up efforts to raise the profile of the LPI within the United Nations system [Dec 2016]   | LPI              | In progress- – In addition to FAO and IFAD, LPI engaged with United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and IOM-Democratic Republic of the Congo in validating the draft study on land and conflict |
| 15       | Explore different avenues to ensure and raise sustainable funding to support ALPC, including raising awareness of the Ministry of Finance and Development [Dec 2016]  | LPI and JWGL, SC | In progress – ongoing efforts  |
| 16       | Prepare concept note to support the request for the side event at the upcoming ministerial meeting (COM) [Dec 2016]<br>Send the request and supporting documentation (e.g. concept notes) to the AUC to kick-start the process [Dec 2016] | LPI              | Done   |
| 17       | Work closely with ECA Capacity Development Division on land and conflict study being conducted to ensure complementarity [Dec 2016]   | LPI and ECA/CDD  | In progress: CDD assigned focal person, took part in the inception and validation consultations  |

| Decision | Task   | Role              | Update  |
|----------|--|-------------------|---|
| 18       | Set clear target date and urgently finalize the Capacity Development Framework (May 2015)  | LPI               | In progress   |
| 19       | Regional farmers' platforms to develop joint projects and work plans in the context supportive of the RECs' regional-level agenda [April 2016]<br>IGAD Secretariat requested to provide update on their engagement with East African Farmers Federation (FAFF) and status of the CSO platform [Dec 2016]   | LPI,<br>RECs/IGAD | In progress: EFF is member of the IGAD project steering committee   |
| 20       | Seek ways to improve LPI website and its reach including increasing its autonomy and linking it to the websites of AUC, AfDB and RECs (May 2015)   | ECA/LPI           | In progress   |
| 21       | Next Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA) to be postponed to 2017; LPI to negotiate with proposed host country/decide dates [April 2016]<br>LPI should follow up with Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA of AUC) on the conference to find an alternative member State to host the conference [Dec 2016]<br>LPI requested to maintain the date for the Conference in November 2017 [Dec 2016]<br>LPI requested that the exact dates of the conference be fixed and submitted to ECA calendar of events to solicit support of the ECA [Dec 2016] | LPI/AUC           | In progress—Decision taken by JWGL to hold in Addis Ababa, from 14 to 17 November 2017  |
| 22       | Organize regular platform for discussion /lesson learning on thematic land issues [April 2016]   | LPI,<br>RECs, all | In progress<br>A ministerial dialogue was organized”, “Invest in Africa’s land to catalyse economic growth and prosperity” in Dakar alongside the Conference of Ministers in March 2017 |
| 23       | Explore possibilities to outsource LPI publication [April 2016]  | ECA/LPI           | In progress – guidance requested from ECA publication unit  |
| 24       | Committee members strongly urged the LPI Secretariat to expedite the finalization of LPI publication of documents [Dec 2016]   | LPI               | In progress   |

| Decision | Task   | Role | Update   |
|----------|--|------|--|
| 25       | Expedite implementation of the M&E component of work plan (May 2015) | LPI  | Done-Monitoring and Evaluation of Land Africa now on track |

## 4.2 Committee observations and recommendations

Following the presentation, the Chair opened the floor for additional input, including the following observations:

- Clarification was requested on why translation into French of the minutes of the Steering Committee was not done;
- Inclusion of a list of abbreviations and acronyms was requested in the minutes of the Steering Committee;
- Confirmation was given by Dr. Karingi, representing the Capacity Development Division of ECA, that there was engagement with LPI in the process of organizing three major events focusing on conflict and development. Members of the Steering Committee were assured that LPI remained very much engaged and took part in upcoming high-level platforms.

The secretariat undertook henceforth to submit the English and French versions of the Steering Committee minutes, as per the decisions of the previous meeting of the Steering Committee.

## 4.3 Decisions

- LPI is to take part in the upcoming three high-level platforms that the Capacity Development Division of ECA is organizing in the area of conflict and development.
- A list of abbreviations and acronyms is to be included in the minutes of the Steering Committee.

## 5. Progress in implementing LPI activities as guided by the African Union Declaration on Land

### 5.1 Summary of progress in implementing the 2016 Work Plan

LPI secretariat staff members presented the report on progress in implementing the 2016 LPI Work Plan and progress in the first quarter of 2017, in which achievements were highlighted in the delivery of the work plan.

The following is a list of updated achievements:

*EAI-Enhanced capacity of LPI secretariat to plan and manage the LPI programme:*  
LPI implemented 64 per cent of planned outputs; fund utilization improved progressively with

a slow-down in 2015 due to the change in the corporate-wide Enterprise Planning System of the United Nations Secretariat; an Internal Monitoring and Evaluation Framework was prepared and validated; and an additional member of staff was recruited:– an expert in gender and land was seconded. Furthermore, the LPI Steering Committee was organized based on the plan without interruption, enabling the secretariat to get the strategic guidance of the Steering Committee.

*EA2-Land included in Africa's development agenda:* LPI recorded remarkable achievements in mainstreaming land in the development agenda of continental and regional partners. LPI engaged the leadership of RECs, and ensured the assignment of dedicated focal persons at the regional level. Three RECs had already started implementing land governance programmes. Those triumphs, however, were at risk due to the funding situation. Added to that, LPI had six country pilot projects on mainstreaming land in their National Agricultural Investment Plans and funded by IFAD.

*EA3-Partnerships, synergies, coordination; and resource mobilization:* In the context of existing partnership agreements, LPI strived to augment the potentials and benefits of those agreements. Accordingly, progress was made in all joint programmes with the European Union, SDC, GIZ, IFAD, FAO, Landesa, IGAD, COMESA, IDEP, ACG and RCMRD/LDGI. Two joint planning and review sessions aimed at enhancing synergy and harmonization were organized.

*EA4-Communication, advocacy and outreach:* Some of the key results delivered during the reporting period included servicing high-level policy dialogue, and organizing side events and high-level learning exchange on land and conflict. F&G and VGGT synergies were promoted during two capitalization meetings of the 10 countries with land governance projects funded by the European Union.

As part of advocacy on women's land rights, the following three side events were organized to promote and advocate for 30 per cent member State commitment: Kilimanjaro initiative; political and continental platform in Kigali alongside the African Union Summit; and a CFS side event. In addition, the secretariat prepared an issue brief on women's land rights.

As a side event during the 2017 AU-ECA Conference of Ministers in Dakar in March 2017, a ministerial dialogue was organized on the theme, "Invest in Africa's land to catalyse economic growth and prosperity", to increase the commitment of African Ministers of Finance to invest in land governance.

*EA5-Enhanced knowledge generation and dissemination:* Some of the key aspects of progress in that area during the reporting period included: the preparation of a draft report on the study on Land, ethnicity and conflict in Africa; the preparation of a draft report on the study on curricula gap assessment and institutional mapping in Africa; and a total of 6,266 copies of LPI publications disseminated to various stakeholders while meetings and organized events were taking place.

*EA6-Capacities developed and skills enhanced:* The following were the key results pertaining to the results that were delivered and reported:

Enhancing capacity -- sensitization seminar, trainings, technical assistance:

- Implementation of the Nairobi Plan of Action: sensitization on LSLBI for Traditional Authorities organized; preparation for the training session for lawyers supporting governments in negotiations being finalized (scheduled from 9 to 12 May in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania); the development of LSLBI training material, and a discussion with member States on technical assistance on LSLBI;
- Preparation of a training module by LPI on gender and women's rights for RECs;
- Drafting of a report on the needs assessment of curricula on land governance, including recommendations and best practices prepared and validated;
- Preparation of guidelines for curriculum development on Land Governance in Africa;
- Ongoing development of a curriculum on land governance in Africa (for policymakers) and an assessment study on capacity needs of policymakers (in partnership with PLAAS – University of Western Cape) being conducted.

Establishing the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA):

- Completion of an assessment report of thematic lead universities for the establishment of NELGA;
- Completion of an assessment report on 'Mapping of institutions of higher learning on land governance in Africa';
- Identification of NELGA Nodes;
- Development and validation of a road map for the establishment and actualization of NELGA;
- Identification and selection of the five NELGA Nodes;
- Assessment under way of capacity of NELGA nodes.

Facilitating the mainstreaming of VGGT and F&G:

- Launching phase II of the EU-FAO land governance programme involving five additional countries: Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, the Sudan, Uganda;
- Preparing draft communication strategy for integrated implementation of F&G and VGGT at Pan-African and Transversal level;
- Developing jointly the knowledge management platform to promote information exchange and lessons learning on responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests;

Supporting platforms of civil society organizations, farmers and traditional leaders:

- Technical and financial support were provided by LPI to the civil society organizations platform and Kilimanjaro Initiative to prepare a charter – ‘on women and land issues’;
- Ongoing efforts to support farmers’ land agenda; reorientation towards working through regional platforms based on the guidance of the LPI Steering Committee;
- A platform established by traditional leaders to support the African Union Agenda on Land, including the 30 per cent campaign. Support for the operationalization of the platform is needed through technical assistance and dedicated resources.

*Monitoring and evaluation:* the roll-out of the piloting of the LPI Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, dubbed the *Monitoring and Evaluation of Land in Africa (MELA)*, commenced in partnership with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The following are some key areas of progress:

- Twelve pilot countries were selected. The results of those piloting efforts are the basis of reporting on implementation of the African Union Declaration on Land;
- Two days planning workshops were organized, and the roll-out plan for MELA was agreed;
- A consultative meeting with a broad range of stakeholders and experts conducted in the margins of the World Bank Land Conference (41 participants, 37 per cent F), key inputs were solicited.

## **5.2 Fund utilization**

Mr. Ayehualem Tameru, representing the LPI secretariat, presented the status of the fund utilization. He reported that in 2016, a total of US\$ 3.8 million was utilized, which is 64 per cent of the planned budget. He highlighted two points for the Steering Committee’s consideration: the promising momentum being built in delivering results, as demonstrated by the resource utilization (see figure I), and the over-reliance of the secretariat on one donor (as presented in figure II).

Figure I  
**Progress on fund utilization from 2009 to March 2017 (in US dollars)**

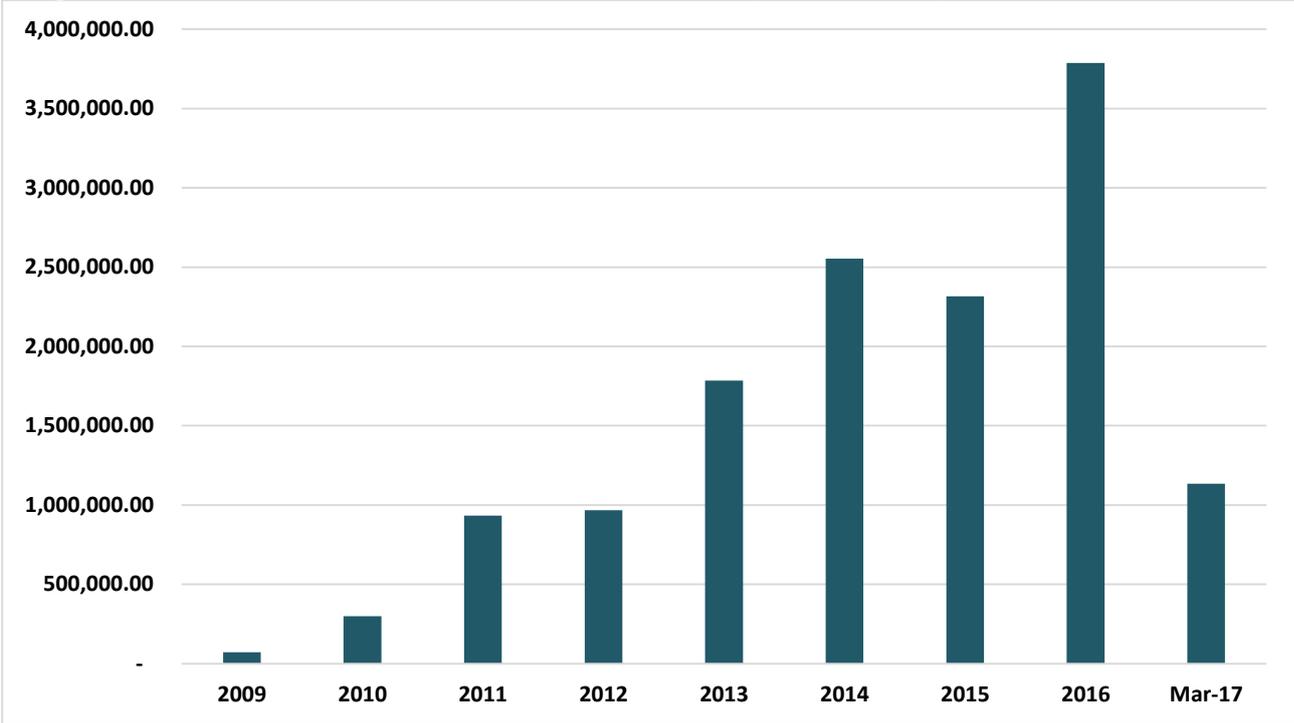
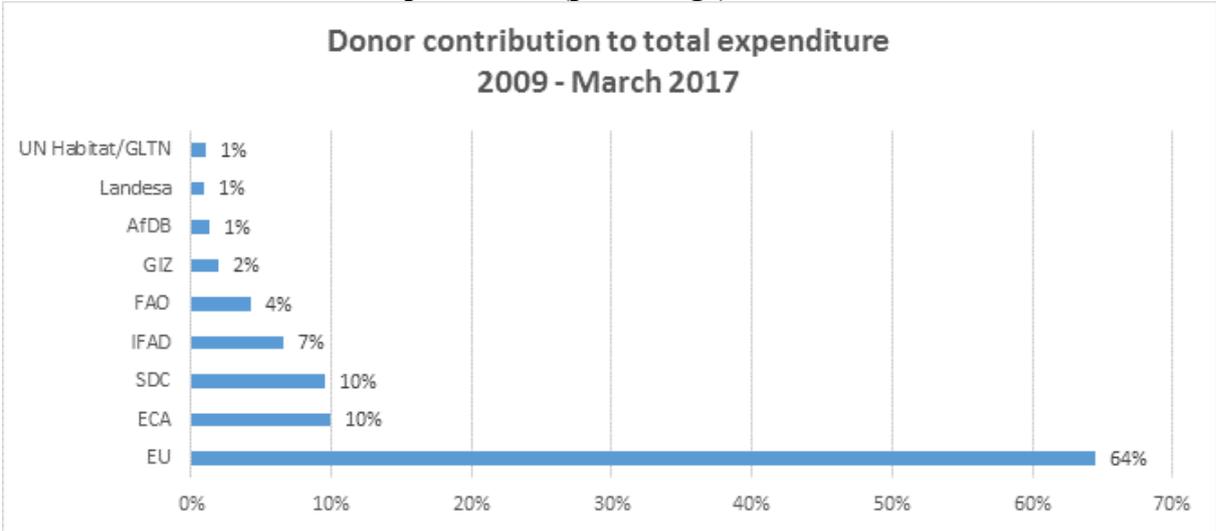


Figure II  
**Donor contribution to LPI expenditures (percentage)**



**5.3 Committee observations and recommendations**

Following the presentation of the LPI staff on progress in the implementation of the LPI work plan and fund utilization reports, Steering Committee members commended the LPI secretariat team for their comprehensive report and made the following observations:

- More information was requested on the LPI communication and advocacy strategy;

- More information was requested on land governance training sessions, including the one for policymakers, on gender and on Masters and doctoral programmes;
- LPI secretariat was requested to share more information on the status of the study on land, ethnicity and conflict in Africa;
- Support of the LPI secretariat was requested to facilitate the organization of a high-level dialogue in the Sahel; in addition, the Secretariat was urged to ensure that all RECs participate in such important dialogues;
- African institutions were requested to increase their support to LPI;
- LPI was requested to have a wide range of network members (NELGA) across the continent, as land issues affect every one of its countries; universities also need to be represented;
- In the context of a discussion on the impressive and varied capacity development initiatives, African universities were appealed to, to start incorporating and nuancing their curricula to reflect the situation of the continent;
- LPI was requested to disseminate widely information to NELGA universities regarding a new enhanced fellowship programme launched by ECA during the Conference of Ministers in Dakar. In particular, in April 2017, ECA would issued a call for about 30 young Africans to do their fellowship in ECA;
- LPI needed to strengthen its effort in the area of resource mobilization;
- Considering the role of traditional leaders in governance of land in Africa and their important function, members requested to provide more information on the initiative of the traditional leaders – including on the approach taken;
- Comments were offered on the procedure of the meeting, underscoring the amount of information provided. One view was that the report presented did not identify the guidance that was sought from the Committee. It was suggested that the secretariat presents those areas that require the guidance of the Committee and allocate enough time to discuss those challenges (in terms of the institutional arrangement, building partnership, and thematic areas).

The Chair thanked members of the Committee for their active engagement and invited the LPI secretariat to provide additional information, as requested. The Chair then suggested that a presentation be given, focusing on areas that require the guidance of the Committee.

Dr. Kagwanja, thanking members for their continued guidance and active engagement, provided the following explanation:

- She welcomed the suggestion of exploring support from African institutions and strengthening resource mobilization efforts.

- She reported that LPI was at that time in a predicament, considering that the decision to withdraw European Union funding had only been communicated in January 2017 when funding was ending in June 2017.
- She informed members of the Committee that advocacy and communication were constrained by lack of human and financial resources. She highlighted that the LPI communication and advocacy strategy was for all stakeholders who were implementing the African Union Declaration on Land.
- She took the opportunity to seek the guidance of the Steering Committee to postpone the study on customary land rights so that it would be undertaken by the traditional leaders when the platform was fully functional.
- She reported that LPI had set up a number of platforms for sharing information and exchanging experiences, and enhancing the contributions of different groups of stakeholders engaged in implementing the African Union Declaration on Land. The platform of traditional leaders was one such platforms.
- She reported that the JWGL had made a recommendation to move the Conference on Land Policy to Addis Ababa after failure to secure a hosting partner.

#### **5.4 Decision and recommendations**

- Share the communication and advocacy strategy with members of the Steering Committee;
- Organize the next Conference on Land Policy in Africa from 14 to 17 November 2017 in Addis Ababa;
- Approve the proposal of the secretariat to conduct the study on customary land rights under the auspices of traditional leaders;
- Have a clear timeline and finalize the land and conflict study to be able to present the findings in the high-level forums being organized by the Capacity Development Division of ECA.

*Decision: The Steering Committee approved the report on progress in implementing LPI activities, including fund utilization.*

## **6. Areas for guidance from the Steering Committee**

As requested by the Committee, Dr. Kagwanja made a presentation focusing on areas that required the guidance of the Steering Committee. The following issues were raised:

- Enhancing LPI capacity: in view of the limited budget as a result of the European Union decision to suspend support, the Steering Committee was requested to advise on how to meet the immediate need for covering LPI staff salaries.

- Mainstreaming land: the guidance of the Steering Committee was sought on how to continue maintaining the momentum gained in mainstreaming land in RECs programmes and other stakeholders.
- Partnership and resource mobilization: one of the key areas in the outcome was the need for strengthening platforms for joint engagement with partners. However, due to the current funding challenges, LPI secretariat sought the guidance of the Committee on how to meet the high demand for a platform for harmonization and coordination, and how to engage partners beyond those funding LPI.
- Communication and advocacy: the LPI secretariat sought the guidance of the Committee on how to address the human resource gaps to support the result area. One of the possible ways to address that challenge was to second staff from partner organizations.
- Knowledge generation and dissemination: the secretariat requested the approval of the Committee to postpone the study on customary land rights in order to be able to align it with the newly established platform of the traditional leaders/FATA.

#### **6.1 Committee observations**

Following the presentation, the Committee made the following observations:

- Representing the European Union, Mr. Nardi explained that the funding for the LPI programme would end in July 2017, although there was a request for no cost extension, which was yet to be reviewed. The European Union decision, he explained, was taken by its headquarters due to a change in priority for funding (caused by factors such as migration and Brexit). He suggested that if LPI wanted to make a proposal for phase II, the emphasis should be on RECs and member States. He further added that the increase in funding to RECs and member States would be more appealing to European Union senior management within the Eleventh European Development Fund (EDF), which had migration as a priority.
- Representing COMESA, Mr. Makwiramiti described that his organization had just started implementing LPI programmes. Given the likely gaps in LPI funding, he underscored that there would be challenges with the implementation of COMESA land governance programmes. He further noted that this decision could affect food security in Africa and affect poverty reduction strategies.
- Representing IGAD, Dr. Dejen commented that the challenges across the eight LPI result areas were interlinked in terms of resource mobilization and capacity. Those, in turn, he explained, would affect planning at both the LPI and IGAD levels. Without funding support for LPI, he stressed, IGAD would be affected in rolling out the planned activities. He reported that the issue was communicated to the mission from the European Union to IGAD in 2016. He reported that there was a huge demand from member States for support and IGAD alone could not meet those requests. He then expressed his frustration that if LPI did not have the financial capacity to continue its work, IGAD would also find it challenging to undertake work that pertained to land governance.

- Representing ECCAS, Mr. Mukongo expressed his concern in relation to the discontinuation of European Union support for LPI that would negatively influence the rolling out of the African Union Declaration on land in the region. ECCAS member States, he continued, had many challenges in dealing with natural resources management and ECCAS embraced the LPI programme and support with many expectations. ECCAS, he explained, had prepared a programme for implementation with LPI in 2016, to which ECCAS was ready to make a financial contribution. That decision however, he elaborated, could affect the inclusion of the joint programme in ECCAS's 2017 programmes and budget.
- Representing ECOWAS, Mr. Aubee, appreciated the support from partners and the European Union in particular to LPI. He, however, expressed his concerns that the end to such support would seriously affect LPI and would erode all the gains made by LPI. It would reduce, he continued, the momentum built on land issues in the ECOWAS region and other RECs. ECOWAS was looking at how land affected infrastructure, urbanization, forestry and other natural resources. Withdrawal of funding would seriously affect the continuation of those activities. The transition from LPI to ALPC would seriously be affected if funding were withdrawn. ECOWAS was able to develop a land directive through the support of LPI. He suggested that the European Union should reconsider its decision to end funding for LPI.
- Representing UN-Habitat, Ms. Ochong expressed her office's keen interest to continue supporting Africa's land agenda. She concurred with the submissions made by the RECs. She emphasized that it would be a pity to derail the momentum on land led by LPI, which had become a model for other regions, such as South Asia.
- Representing NPCA, Mr. Bwalya highlighted the need for giving due recognition to the value of LPI work in support of countries. He requested LPI to clearly define the process to finalize the ALPC strategic plan, particularly in terms of priority and delivery model. He then asked the European Union if there was a recourse in the European Union decision. In addition, he queried other development partners in regard to what they were prepared to do in the short term to bridge the gap. In the long term, he implored the Committee to deliberate on and be closely engaged with the Secretariat to secure sustained funding.
- Representing IFAD, Mr. Liversage commented on progress in mobilizing internal resources. He then explored what member States, AfDB and ECA could do in supporting land governance. He reflected on ways that the engagement with RECs could be supported and strengthened, by the support of the donors. In addition, he suggested the need for exploring the possibilities for capitalizing on the support to national level programmes. He also requested the Committee to consider inviting additional observers to the SCM (including some of the bilateral organizations such as GIZ and SDC).
- Representing PAFO, Ms. Ben Rejeb, appealed to the African Union Commission, RECs and AfDB to support the land agenda. Recognizing the support of the donors, she nevertheless appealed in particular to African institutions to demonstrate that the continent was capable of funding itself.

- Dr. Karingi raised the alarm of creating parallel and confusing structures such as the African Advisory Group, which seemed to be causing a sense of incoherence with respect to the African Union land agenda. He recommended the need for having deeper engagement with the sponsors of that Group. On another note, recalling that the African Union Commission had established a high-level panel on migration chaired by the President of Liberia, Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, he requested that LPI explore the possibility of a presentation to the panel on the link between migration and the land agenda. He also recommended that the same be presented at the ADF to be held in November 2017, which would focus on migration.
- Representing AfDB, Dr. Kromer stated that LPI was at a critical stage and that it would be a shame to curtail its activities due to lack of resources after all the good work done. He stressed that AfDB would do something about its low contribution, noting that the time was ripe for AfDB to support the land programme.
- On resource mobilization, Dr. Kromer proposed that LPI should consider non-traditional donors and make a case for land tenure reform and include a request for support. He concluded that he would report the financial situation of LPI to senior management.
- Finally, the European Union representative informed participants that his delegation does not have a financial envelope that year allotted for the African Union. He reported that the budget for the year had already been allocated and it might be difficult to raise additional funds.

## **6.2 Decisions and recommendations**

- RECs together with LPI were requested to explore funding possibilities made available by the European Union at regional level.
- Make a proposal for phase II of support by the European Union with emphasis on strengthening ALPC.
- Initiate discussions with the European Union its decision not to fund LPI and appeal to it to reconsider.
- The tripartite partners (AUC, ECA and AfDB) were requested to enhance their support of ALPC in order to ensure sustainability.
- Elaborate the nexus between migration and land tenure/governance and consider preparing presentations at the upcoming platforms, including the African Development Forum (ADF).
- Put in place medium- and long-term strategies to move away from donor dependency.
- Convene a meeting of development partners that are active in land governance in Africa.

- Mobilize resources from non-traditional donors, such as foundations.

## **7. Closing remarks**

Dr. Janet Edeme, the Chair of the LPI Steering Committee once again thanked members and observers of the LPI Steering Committee for their active engagement and guidance, invited Dr. Karingi and Dr. Kromer to join her in closing the meeting.

Dr. Karingi, on behalf of the tripartite partners, thanked the Chair for the very good facilitation, and members of the Committee for their continued participation and guidance. He affirmed the commitment of ECA's senior management to support the transition of LPI to ALPC. He echoed the words of the Steering Committee, in particular those concerning RECs, in relation to the risk confronting both the regional and national land agenda. He pledged to communicate to the leadership of ECA all the points raised. Having said that ECA remained committed to any issue that was important to Africa, he stated that land was part of the strategic priorities. He concluded by reaffirming to the members of the Committee that they should not leave the meeting thinking that LPI was dissolving – that, according to Dr. Karingi, would not happen.

Mr. Kromer pledged to convey the message to AfDB leadership that it was essential to continue supporting LPI.

In her closing statement, Dr. Edeme noted the assignments proposed, in particular to convene the development partners' meeting, which the new DREA Commissioner would take forward. She stressed that the political commitment to Land was critical in the first ten-year plan of Agenda 2063.

On behalf of the African Union Commission, Dr. Edeme extended her appreciation to members and observers for their commitment. The meeting was adjourned at 1.50 p.m.

## Annex 1

### Decisions of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 5 April 2017

| Task   |  | Responsibility |
|--|--|----------------|
| <b>EA 1. Enhance the capacity of the LPI secretariat</b>   |  |                |
| 1  | Finalize the ALPC business plan  | ALPC           |
| 2  | Clarify the role of the ‘African High-level Advisors’, in order to strengthen synergy with the ALPC initiatives and avoid confusion  | AUC/DREA       |
| 3  | Approval of the ALPC 2017 work plan and budget was postponed to allow the secretariat to include the guidance of the Steering Committee. JWGL requested to review and approve the ALPC 2017 work plan and budget | JWGL and ALPC  |
| 4  | Reorganize the Steering Committee in the light of ALPC and its strategic plan and consider including bilateral development partners such as GIZ and SDC as observers   | JWGL           |
| <b>EA2. Mainstream land issues in Africa’s development</b> |  |                |
| <b>EA3. Partnerships and resource mobilization</b>         |  |                |
| 5  | RECs together with ALPC requested to explore funding possibilities made available by the European Union at regional level  | RECs and ALPC  |
| 6  | Make a proposal for phase II of European Union support with emphasis on strengthening ALPC   | ALPC           |
| 7  | Initiate discussions with the European Union to request that it reconsiders its decision not to fund ALPC  | ECA, ALPC      |
| 8  | The tripartite partners (AUC, ECA and AfDB) requested to enhance their support to ALPC to ensure sustainability  |                |
| 9  | Put in place medium- and long-term strategies to move away from donor dependency   | ALPC           |
| 10   | Convene a meeting of development partners who are active in land governance in Africa  | AUC, ALPC      |
| 11   | Mobilize resources from non-traditional donors, such as foundations  | ECA, ALPC      |
| <b>EA4. Communication, advocacy and outreach</b>           |  |                |
| 12   | Share the communication and advocacy strategy with members of the Steering Committee   | ALPC           |
| <b>EA5. Knowledge dissemination</b>                        |  |                |
| 13   | Organize the next Conference on Land Policy in Africa in Addis Ababa from 14 to 17 November 2017   | ALPC           |
| 14   | Elaborate the link between migration and land tenure/governance and consider presenting at the upcoming African Development Forum  |                |
| 15   | Take part in the upcoming three high-level platforms that ECA (CDD) is organizing in the area of conflict and development  | ECA, ALPC      |
| 16   | Have a clear timeline and finalize the study on land and conflict to be able to present the findings in high-level forums  | ALPC           |
| 17   | Approved proposal of the secretariat to conduct the study on customary land rights under the auspices of traditional leaders   | ALPC           |

| Task                                  | Responsibility |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>EA6. Capacity development</b>      |                |
|                                       |                |
| <b>EA7. Monitoring and evaluation</b> |                |
|                                       |                |

## Annex 2

### Agenda

**LPI Steering Committee Meeting  
5 April 2017, Addis Ababa  
African Union Conference, Caucus Room ...**

| <b>TIME</b>        | <b>AGENDA ITEM</b>  | <b>PRESENTER/ SPEAKER</b> |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------|
| <b>08:30-9:00</b>  | Registration  | LPI Secretariat           |
| <b>9:00-10:00</b>  | <b>Opening Session</b>  |                           |
|                    | Welcoming Remarks   | Chair Steering Committee  |
|                    | Introduction of participants  | Chair and Participants    |
|                    | Presentation and adoption of the Agenda   | Chair                     |
| <b>10:00-10:30</b> | <b>Session I: Matters arising from last Steering Committee meeting</b>                                      |                           |
|                    | Progress made in implementing the decisions of the previous Steering Committee                              | LPI Secretariat           |
|                    | Discussion  | Participants              |
| <b>10:30-11:00</b> | <b>Coffee Break and Group photo</b>   |                           |
| <b>11:00-11:30</b> | <b>Session II: Progress made in implementing the LPI activities as guided by the AU Declaration on Land</b> |                           |
|                    | Progress made in implementing the 2016 Work Plan including fund utilization                                 | LPI Secretariat           |
|                    | Discussion  | Participants              |
| <b>11:30-13:00</b> | <b>Session III: LPI Work Plan 2017</b>  |                           |
|                    | Presentation on LPI 2017 Work Plan with budget  | LPI Secretariat           |
|                    | Discussion  | Participants              |
| <b>13:00-14:00</b> | <b>Lunch Break</b>  |                           |
| <b>14:00-14:45</b> | <b>Session IV: Emerging issues and challenges</b>   |                           |
|                    | Presentation on emerging issues and challenges  | LPI Secretariat           |
| <b>14:45-15:30</b> | <b>Updates from RECs and partners</b>   |                           |
|                    | Updates   | RECs and partners         |
|                    | Discussions   | Participants              |
| <b>15:30-16:00</b> | <b>Closing Session</b>  |                           |
|                    | Concluding remarks: Key decisions, and recommendations  | Chair                     |
| <b>16:00-16:30</b> | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |                           |