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Addis Ababa, 25 February 2016 - The Land Policy Initiative (LPI) will organize tomorrow a one-day meeting that will review to validate the selection of leading universities that could provide the basis for the establishment of the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) to anchor a programme for training and research.

The selection of universities is proposed by a recent study undertaken by LPI as a background to the establishment of NELGA, to assess the gaps in training and research on land governance. The meeting will seek to agree on roles and responsibilities of endorsed institutions, and on the immediate activities to be rolled out in the NELGA programme. It is equally expected that the session will identify and agree upon areas of possible collaboration to enhance the curricula, training and research quality.

The meeting will gather a small group of experts from selected academic and research institutions in Africa, the *German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)*, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

The establishment of NELGA is the result of a fruitful partnership between LPI, Germany, and the World Bank. The Network is considered an avenue to enhance capacity in a sustainable manner in order to address the dynamism of land use and institutional change in Africa.

The Land Policy Initiative is a joint programme of the tripartite consortium consisting of the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Its mandate is to facilitate the implementation of the AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa.

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