MENA LAND FORUM - V
TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL:
RELATING LOCAL ISSUES TO GLOBAL PROCESSES

Tunis, 5–7 December 2014

Land Forum–V Report

Housing and Land Rights Network
HABITAT INTERNATIONAL COALITION (HIC-HLRN)
**Introduction**

The Housing and Land Rights Network concluded its fifth Land Forum in Tunis with the participation of 22 researcher and activist representatives of organizations and local and regional social movements in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA).

In pursuit of these objectives, HLRN organized this session as the first of a series of activities planned for the biennium 2015–16, which coincides with several global processes that promise to set global norms and policies for land and natural resource development. The Land Forum’s theme—“Taking It to the Next Level: Relating Local Issues to Global Processes”—framed the present phase in a cumulative effort begun in 2009 to capacitize MENA civil society to contribute effectively to those processes and developments. With this HLRN central program goal, the fifth session featured several added values, advancing previous Land Forum outcomes, demonstrating:

- Continuity of the constructive debate and strategic planning based on the accumulation achieved by the Forum over the past four years;
- Updating participants about relevant developments and current trends across the region and in individual countries since the last Land Forum;
- Concentration on a select number of active participants, both veterans and new participants, with a significant representation of all issues the Forum covers;
- Harmony and complementarity among the experiences of participants and their organizations in dealing with the international forums and institutions with respect to land issues;
- A clearer articulation of civil society demands on the international institutions with respect to development and human rights issues related to land and natural resources;
- Development of a clear agenda, with division of labor, for participating in international processes, while maintaining a collective vision to prioritize cooperation with the various IFIs and UN agencies for development, particularly through monitoring and complementing the relationship between those institutions and the governments;
- Reaffirmation of the progressive land and natural resource administration norms developed through international forums as essential points of common cause with those agencies applying international human rights law framework (ILO, FAO, OHCHR, UN Human Rights System);
- New opportunities identified to cooperate with those influential international institutions that can affect the decision-making process positively at the local level (FAO, ILO, World Bank, etc.), as well as increase the possibilities of empowering the grassroots.

The participants affirmed proposals of most important activities to attain the HLRN central program goal and Land Forum objectives, including to:

- Develop the MENA Land Forum process as a mechanism to channel human rights-based research, assessments and problem-solving advocacy;
- Empower civil society to articulate the economic, social and cultural human rights dimensions of land and natural resource management, particularly for the impoverished and rural subjects of those rights;
- Create synergies among CSOs specialized in particular human rights to housing, land, water and adequate food and nutrition;
- Exchange experiences of land and natural resource struggles across MENA;
- Further develop a regional diagnosis of land and natural resource issues as the basis for a regional research and advocacy agenda;
- Map the most important role players on the international level who affect the decision making in the region, specifically influencing land laws and the political economy dimensions that affect the human rights dimensions, the present and future;
- Link participants to the global policy and norm-setting processes ongoing through 2016.
Land Forum Proceedings

First Day: 5 December 2015:

Opening and Refreshing Memories

The first day started with registration procedures and welcoming in which Housing and Land Rights Network Coordinator Joseph Schechla presented the program and the methodology of the Land Forum. Then he gave the floor to the participants to present each other and prepare themselves for the new round of deliberations. He led the participants in some mental exercises to refresh their memories about the most important features of the Land Forum since its inception in 2009 and how it relates to the common work of the participants.

Achievements and Plans:

In the first session, MENA Program Officer Rabie Wahba spoke of the most important elements of the Forum, and what has been done in the previous four sessions. He discussed how those rounds established an unprecedented dialogue and exchange of information and ideas, as well as helped participants map issues and CSO partners in the countries. Rabie referred to the most-recent publication of the Land Forum in the form of the book الأرض ومن اهلها/Land and Its People, in Arabic and English, as a stock-taking exercise of all the inputs and outputs of the previous four sessions, including the spontaneous outcomes and strategic planning solutions to land issues. He recalled how the region’s uprisings punctuated this period, sparking a re-evaluation of civil society actions, failures and successes, and plans for future contributions to meet the demands and concerns of the people. At the end of his presentation, Wahba focused on the most important actions in the coming period, such as:

- Consolidating the efforts of civil society and supporting young people to participate in local governance;
- Programming closer cooperation with the institutions affecting decision making: World Bank, FAO, UN-HABITAT, etc.;
- Developing the regional diagnosis of land-administration challenges and deficits to inform an agenda for research and advocacy;
- Set priorities for action in international forums and confirm the presence of a representative and efficient civil society, in order to ensure the representation of different people and issues in the region;
- Improving the role of civil society in monitoring the development aid, private investment and public budget of the state;
- Empower communities to participate in decision making and mobilize to demand justice in the distribution and management of resources.

Wahba reminded participants of the Social Land Watch (SLW) initiative proposed in Land Forum IV (2013) and the need for Land Forum participants’ inputs to develop it by adding or elaborating local proposals for each country of the region.

In his presentation, Schechla provided the normative framework arising from the evolution of human rights and development norms pertaining to land and natural resources in the region and at the global level. He reviewed developments in the argument in favor of a “human rights to land.” He updated the participants on the contemporary use of established concepts of international law—e.g., uti possidetis iuris, extraterritorial obligations of states and reparations criteria—to preserve the integrity of lands and ensure remedy for those whose rights have been violated. He also reported on developments at the international level to integrate humanitarian, development and human rights approaches to ensure more-effective interventions to address protracted crises, such as those experienced in the MENA region.
In the third presentation of the introductory session, HLRN Global Program Officer Emily Mattheisen provided an inventory of the relevant processes that currently inform the decision making around land issues. She provided an introduction to each of the following:

- Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (Tenure Guidelines);
- Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication;
- Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and the Agenda for Action/Framework for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises,
- HLPE Report on Water and Food Security;
- Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI);
- Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals;
- World Bank safeguards review, procedural and policy reform;
- Global Land Tools Network initiatives and products;
- Habitat III (2016)

Then Mattheisen laid out some of the opportunities for CSO engagement, such as National Committees and development of national reports for Habitat III, the needed evaluation of Habitat II and commitment to end evictions, National Urban Forums, and the Rural-Urban Linkages working group. She related these forums to the CSO efforts promoting security of tenure for the urban poor, the “Right to the City,” the right to water as a public good (e.g., Right to Water Forum in the Arab Region—RWFAR), food sovereignty and city-region food systems.

In connection with Habitat III, Emily summarized HIC’s expectations and issues, asserting the need for the Habitat III Process to formally recognize: alternative habitat planning, social production of habitat, the social function of land and property, local fiscal systems, public investment in basic services, accountability for human rights violations, equitable distribution of economic values, city-region (rural-urban nexus) approaches to development, including sustainable food systems.

Finally, she spoke about the opportunities arising from the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee’s study on local government and human rights, civil society initiatives such as City-region Food Systems Platform and the Right to the City Platform; Local government networks: United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability, ORU-FOGAR (regional government), Forum of Local Authorities of the Periphery (FALP), Mercociudades.

**Discussion:** The participants expressed appreciation for the presentations, which returned them to the atmosphere of the Forum on one hand, and posed many of the urgent tasks that that undoubtedly affect the agendas of participants as individuals or institutions alike. Participants also asked for greater capacity development and training on the different international processes and how to better engage their movement or organization in international policy discussions. They expressed the need to engage through collective action, as a movement/coalition.

**Second session: International Processes and Advocacy at the Regional Level**

Mauro Conti, IPC (Italy) and Emily Mattheisen provided an anatomy of the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) and processes for development of land tenure and food security. They explained from their experience how civil society plays an integral role in the deliberations that have led to global norms and criteria for development:

- The “Rome-based agencies” consist of the United Nations Agencies: the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the World Food Program (WFP), and the International
Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); as well as the UN Political Body, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

- The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) is an autonomous and self-organized global platform of small-scale food producers and rural workers organizations and grass root/community based social movements to advance the Food Sovereignty agenda at the global and regional level. IPC has representation across all regions/sub-regions and constituencies; HIC is one of the international organizations of IPC. This past year a new agreement was signed between the FAO and IPC to facilitate greater involvement of civil society into the FAO processes in Rome and at the regional level. At the moment, there is focus on the regional level to implement/capacity building on the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, or often referred to as the Tenure Guidelines.

- The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is another important body that has a strong, well-coordinated apparatus for civil society participation via the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM); HIC facilitates the global constituency for urban food and nutrition security.

Rabie Wahba shared his experience with the International Budget Partnership in developing civil society capacity for human rights audits of public budgets. With respect to land issues, he focused on the most important data of the state budget, the mechanisms of allocation of public resources, and how to use budget analysis to educate citizens. He advocated strategic planning for human rights and development of relations with state bodies to implement people's rights and develop their abilities to become conversant with public budget systems and, thus, become more politically and economically empowered.

Baher Shawki, of the Egyptian Center for Civic and Legislative Reform (ECCLR), recounted his experience of negotiating with the World Bank (WB) on the issues of tenure and land administration as an important aspect of development in the MENA region. His presentation focused on:

- Participation in various international events of the WB in cooperation with international NGOs such as the Bank Information Center (BIC)
- The WB’s current Country Partnership Framework (CPF), originally controversial, but how has become a CSO consultation process that has contributed to improving the opportunities of participation for the civil society entities in the region, as so far experienced in Egypt and Yemen, and will be applied in Morocco and Tunisia in 2015.
- The CPF provides an opportunity to transfer the demands and expectations of broad categories of society in Egypt for the future WB interventions.
- The WB Safeguard Policy review is revamping the criteria for project design, implementation and evaluation. The new policies for grants and funding for governments are needed, especially since most WB projects have proved to be failures, particularly those for so-called social housing or youth housing projects, as well as large infrastructure projects involving displacement. The CSOs who participated in the last events at the WB have emphasized the alternative approach to development, seeking and measuring more-equitable distribution of wealth, instead of touting economic “growth” as the principal indicator. The WB is being urged to return to the standards of development, rather than the discourse of neoliberal economic approaches that create increasing impoverishment to the already poor around the world.
- The priority as the participating CSOs everywhere affirmed that the WB is to assume more-integrated development policy not to remedy symptoms, but to address the root causes of impediments to development and eliminating poverty. For instance, we have to support the factors of empowering people instead of giving them ephemeral aid or assistance to elevate them out of poverty.
Finally, Shawqi raised the importance of the means and methodology of mobilizing people and CSOs toward reform of the effective relationship between the governments and the IFIs. Thus, he stressed the importance of building CSO capacity, while maintaining a critical dialogue with the WB Group.

Joseph Schechla presented the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the outcomes of the Open Working Groups so far. Noting that the UN Secretary General’s publicized his synthesis report the day before, he focused on the draft text of the 17 SDGs, culling from them the goals that most relate to land issues:

- **Goal 1**: End poverty in all its forms everywhere...
- **Goal 2**: End hunger, achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all, and promote sustainable agriculture
- **Goal 5**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls...
- **Goal 11**: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable...
- **Goal 15**: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss...and
- **Goal 16**: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels...

He presented the current draft language alongside the revisions proposed by the international coalition of NGOs specialized in land issues. Joseph pointed out in each that the proposed revisions seek to correct flaws in the foregoing Millennium Development Goals, including their selective nature, their lack of a human rights approach and the omission of targets and accountability for nonperformance of duties to implement the goals. The General Assembly is to meet in special session in September 2015 to adopt the final version of the draft SDGs for the coming 15-year period.

**Fourth session: Organizing Grassroots Movements in MENA**

Shadi Jarada, Observatory of Social and Economic Policy (Palestine): began the session on experiences from grassroots movements with a paper on the recent WB study and proposed project to link the Red Sea to the Dead Sea by a human-made canal or pipeline, in order to restore the depleted water volume of the Dead Sea. Based on a recent study of his organization, Jaradat examined the position of the Palestinian CSOs and local and international experts on the environmental risks arising from the implementation of Red-Dead Canal Project, which would provide for water desalination plants on the edge of the Dead Sea, in addition to pipelines of freshwater for population centers in the beneficiary locations. He discussed the potential policy and environmental damage to the Dead Sea, the lack of accountability at Israel’s overuse of the Palestinian aquifer that has depleted the Dead Sea, and the specific political harm to the Palestinians and their historical rights in this region, which many international donors currently ignore. He noted that the Palestinian Authority is implicated as a party in this scheme under the pretext of promoting peaceful cooperation, despite the harmful consequences to the nation.

Jaradat traced the efforts of Palestinian civil society to oppose this project and, instead, to make Israel account and make reparations for theft of, and damage to Palestine’s natural water resources. The strategy involves education and advocacy at both the local and international levels.

Jamal Talab, of the Land Research Center (Palestine), delivered a paper on "Land Registration and Management of Holdings in Palestine." He inventoried the most important land management problems facing Palestine and affecting both livelihoods and self-
determination rights of the Palestinian people. He reviewed the root causes and impacts of successive administrative regimes—from colonial to national—in the management of land. Talab traced the source of many current problems to the Ottoman rule, which European colonial powers exploited in the region. He then explained the continuum of authoritarian state administration of lands in the interim Jordan administration and current situation under the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Then Talab concluded his presentation with a series of principles, priorities and suggestions for needed action. These related to land issues in cases of occupation, but also application of a more-general nature. These points are incorporated in the LF-V Conclusions and Recommendations below.

**Maha Awadh**, researcher (Yemen): With “Land and Transitional Justice and its Mechanisms,” Awadh reviewed the legal framework for transitional justice and political circumstances in applying it in Yemen, and focused then on transitional justice and gender, “especially as women are more vulnerable and underestimated in the prevailing political and social context. Many transitional justice mechanisms have been criticized because they did not take the gender dimension sufficiently into consideration, especially with the prevalence of some customs and traditions, social structures and legislation that further impede transitional justice (TJ) initiatives. We must give more attention to the status of women within the designing of transitional justice strategies to be dealing with different social problems, including the lack of equality between men and women. Maha then concluded her presentation with the recommendations (incorporated in the LF-V Conclusion and Recommendations below).

**Discussion:** The comments addressed mixed expectations of the traditional justice processes that were a major rallying subject in the 3rd Land Forum (2012). The subject of transitional justice and reparations for dispossessed farmers re-emerged in discussion also on the last day with **Karim al-Akrout**, National Union of Tunisian Farmers (Tunisia). He reported that this issue is currently not a priority issue in the Tunisian TJ discourse and agenda. (Other discussion points that came in the form of recommendations are incorporated in the LF-V Conclusions and Recommendations in the context of transitional justice below.)

**Second Day, 6 December 2014**

**1st session: Organizing Grassroots Movements in MENA, continued**

**Bashir Saqr**, of the Peasants Solidarity Committee (Egypt), provided two papers, which he distributed electronically before the proceedings and also in hard copy during the first day. The first was on “Peasant organizations in the time of the revolution: The shortcomings of establishment, and the illusions of fulfillments.” The second analyzed “The agriculture deterioration in Egypt and Disregard for Peasant Organizing in the Context of World Bank and FAO policies.

Saqr explained how the World Bank has overseen the implementation of agricultural liberalization and restructuring policies in the international conference on “International Conference on Sustainability of Egyptian Agriculture in the 1990’s and Beyond, held in Alexandria.”

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1. Hosted by the Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture, 15–19 May 1992, in cooperation with the IMF, FAO, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Common European Market, UNDP, Ford Foundation, the US Council of Wheat, the Canadian Agency for International Development (CIDA), Canadian Project “Sem-Arab,” and the Deutsche Technologische Zusammenarbeit/German aid program (GTZ), with the presence of many Egyptian political and agriculture bodies.
• State disengagement in its executive role in agriculture production and is confined to planning processes;
• State renunciation of providing production supplies, distribution, pricing and support services;
• Opening the way for the private sector in trade of production supplies;
• Lifting all subsidies, including those related to agricultural loans;
• Deregulation of agricultural trade.

In conclusion, when peasants are involved in daily disputes with the state, banks, traders, private sectors, large-scale farmers, they cannot find the opportunity to develop themselves. They are peasants without trade unions, independent cooperatives, and deprived of access to the agriculture supplies. While Egyptian farmers have been so disempowered, international development agencies knowingly directed policy against the well-being and livelihood of Egypt’s farmers in contravention of Egyptian law protecting the tenure rights of those who produce on the land.

Gaici al-Nah Bashir, Asociación Saharaui de Víctimas de Minas (ASAVIM), (Western Sahara): contributed a presentation on the situation of Western Sahara and the most important violations that have afflicted the Sahrawi people since the Moroccan occupation began in 1975. He stressed the consequence for Sahrawis’ land use and access to natural resources on the land and in the territorial sea, which affect a bundle of human rights, ranging from the right to food and food sovereignty to self-determination.

Gaici presented the principal devices and practices of occupation affecting the partitioned country:
• The effects of Morocco’s construction of the 2,400 km-long wall, dividing the occupied zone from the liberated zone;
• The seizure of natural resources: water for agriculture, minerals (phosphate, etc.), fisheries;
• Landmines, depriving the Sahrawi of access to land and resources, as well as causing death and maiming injuries, especially affecting pastoralists and children victims.

Gaici reviewed the demographic and socio-economic effects of the violations. He highlighted the role international assistance in addressing the consequences, but also its limitations by dealing only with symptoms—not the causes—of hunger, injury and other deprivation. He recounted the efforts of civil society, especially mine awareness and removal, but also the role of indigenous civil society in resisting the occupation and its practices.

He pointed to the October 2010 uprising, which began at Gdeim Izik (12 km east of the occupied capital al-`Ayun) as an example of civil resistance that even the U.S. philosopher Noam Chomsky attributed as the starting point of the “Arab Spring.”

Hassan Sherry, Arab NGO Network for Development—ANND (Lebanon) spoke of the engagement and responses of Arab development-oriented civil society to World Trade Organisation (WTO) processes. He focused on the “Bali Outcome” and its impact on food sovereignty of the Arab countries.

In the agricultural sector, Arab countries joining the WTO has led them to lose part of their own domestic market to artificially cheap imports, while Arab farmers have lost export opportunities and revenues from developed countries’ heavily subsidized agriculture blocking their access to other markets. This happens as the Arab world remains a net importer of food, with imports accounting for 50% of grain requirements, 63% of vegetable

2 Democracy Now, at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTIQt0Pz0BQ.
oils and 71% of sugar. (These three commodities alone constituted about 76% of the food gap in the Arab region in 2007.)

At the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference at Bali (2013), a dispute between the trade ministers of developed and developing countries on the public food-stockholding programs3 resulted in an agreement upon an interim measure, or “peace clause,” whereby WTO would refrain for four years from legal measures against countries already implementing a public food stocktaking program. This means that Arab or developing countries with no current food-security program and wish to initiate one will not be covered by the “peace clause.” The denial of countries to take such protective food-security measures would violate Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.4

Sherry concluded that WTO maintains the same corporate-led globalization model that has been promoted for the past three decades (since the so-called Washington Consensus إجماع واشنطن). Meanwhile, the global economy has witnessed “financial instability, food price volatility and hunger, as well as widened inequality and wage stagnation, limited global access to life-saving medicines and an exacerbated climate crisis. He offered a series of policy recommendations (incorporated in the Conclusions and Recommendations below).

Discussion: Questions and observations on the Sahrawi experience inquired about the precedents legal basis of Sahrawi statehood, which were addressed with reference to the 1975 ICJ advisory opinion affirming the Sahrawi people’s right to self-determination and singular rights holder to the territory and its natural resources. Some participants asked for more information about the map, the numerous branches and extent of the wall, as well as the region’s international parties in its creation. Other observations noted that, of all the countries monitored for food insecurity, often Western Sahara appears with no data.5

Among the grassroots advocacy priorities for the region vis-à-vis international finance institutions (IFIs) are the tremendous debt burdens on states in the MENA region, the cost of debt servicing, the need to uphold subsidies on basic goods and services, as well as other forms of social safety nets, made increasingly indispensable in light of IFI-led policies of state shrinkage and corporate seizure. Hassan also explained the importance of tax justice in this context and the prospect of international technical assistance to establish more-equitable tax systems in MENA countries.

The challenge of crushing debt on small farmers—e.g., in Egypt and Algeria—was discussed. The combined effects of land loss and debt burdens on small-holding farmers and their families remains a high priority for CSOs working with rural communities and agriculture.

In all cases, the extraterritorial obligations (i.e., liability) of states to their economic, social and cultural rights duties seem neglected in the related multilateral processes. Commentary referred to the work still required to apply international law norms as a preventive measure to avoid the subsequent harm in each case. As that preventive application of international law did not take place at the level of states, local communities, grassroots organizations and civil society are left with the task of upholding the law as a remedial measure.

Mohamed Amroun, legal researcher (Algeria): recounted civil society initiatives in Algeria, in the cooperation with FAO. He spoke of his own experience of academic research on food

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3 Public stockholding of food is a practice in which governments buy staples from local farmers at market prices and sell them to poor people at less than the domestic price. This is an effective strategy to protect the poor and safeguard food security, especially in a region highly affected by food-price volatility.

4 As Mauritius argued in the 4th round of trade negotiations toward the Agreement on Agriculture in WTO (2000), resulting in optional measures (blue and green boxes).

5 Notably in the FAO High-level Expert Forum on Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises, September 2012.
security and the role of civil society, presenting the example of a new NGO in Algeria founded with other researchers and activists: Marafiq (Utilities). The organization raises the awareness and readiness of young people to the labor market and enhance their job skills for self-employment or employment opportunities, including in the rural areas. Amroun shared a written presentation also, and proposed cooperation with HLRN and participation in the Land Forum as a way enhance common efforts and activities with Marafiq on the ESC rights, particularly land rights.

Second session: Opportunity for Exchange and Discussion with FAO:

Kayan Jaff, Program Senior Policy Officer for FAO-Regional Near East Office (Egypt), provided a presentation that informed and motivated the participants with a lot of new information and facts, as well as provoked them to raise many question about the assets and possibility of cooperation between FAO and CSOs.

He first presented the three regional priority areas:
- Near East and North Africa’s Water Scarcity Initiative,
- Small-scale Agriculture for Inclusive Development in the Near East and North Africa,

Jaff then focused on six dimensions of cooperation with civil society:
1. Field Programme
2. Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Development;
3. Policy Dialogue
4. Joint Use of Resources in Emergency Situations;
5. Normative Activities and
6. Advocacy and Communication.

He also touched upon the principles that FAO respects for CSOs:
- Autonomy and self-organization on how to best occupy dialogue spaces;
- Their need for sufficient space to carry out internal consultations properly.

He then spoke about the five pillars of implementation of the program: Awareness raising, Capacity development, Support to countries, Partnerships and Monitoring. Kayan also explained that an objective of this strategy entails also developing the capacity and “voice” of civil society, including small farmer associations, to meet the common challenges in the FAO’s three priority areas (above). With these parameters, the participants considered how they could collaborate with FAO.

Discussion: Kayan’s presentation helped participants relate their issues to broader regional and global processes that concern the participants. Discussion turned to the comparatively weak engagement of Near East and North Africa civil society in these specialized global processes, and about the disproportionate need to strengthen that representation.

The discussion raised the prospect of local norm-based land and food-security struggles relating to each other in some not-yet-formalized fashion. As some of the literature suggests, good practices exist in our region, but are rarely connected or coordinated. The mutual capacity-building specifics were to be further specified in the scheduled small group session (Day 3) on that very subject (discussed below).

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However, the participants observed that local civil society and FAO have been unnecessarily estranged in the region. Civil society organizations working with rural communities rarely come into contact with FAO and, working directly with farmers and governments, FAO has rarely come in contact with those CSOs. Participants discussed the prospect of localizing the principles and practices of the IPC and/or CSM at Rome in the field. This could be a measure to raise visibility of FAO and the priority issues to the interest of both sides. In doing so, they discussed adopting the methodology of CFS—and the World Bank’s promised Country Partnership (CPF)—of addressing causes—not merely symptoms—of poverty and underdevelopment to increase impact of FAO and CSO cooperation.

**Third Day: 7 December 2014**

**First session: Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests**

J. Schechla discussed the efforts so far in implementing the Tenure Guidelines (TGs) since the CFS adopted them in 2012. No comprehensive review has determined the TGs’ application within states (by governments, private sector, civil society, indigenous peoples, etc.). However, CSOs have assumed the task of developing a “people’s manual” to accompany the TGs that can be used at the popular level to “strengthen, monitor, apply and evaluate” them locally.

He presented the global civil society and social movement representatives who have drafted it, and their progress to date. The finished manual will be produced in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

Joseph said he had hoped to use the current draft as a basis for a training module on the TGs for this Land Forum. However, he advised that the present version needs further development, especially if it were to be useful in the NE/NA region.

Joseph presented the TGs “general principles” as they relate to human rights concepts (i.e., human dignity, remedy for victims, justice and accountability), elements of good governance (i.e., transparency, consultation, participation, accountability), and development objectives (i.e., holistic approach, sustainability), as well as some of the over-riding principles of implementing human rights treaty obligations, namely: nondiscrimination, gender equality, rule of law, continuous improvement of living conditions/progressive realization.

He explained also that the TGs are silent on other binding treaty obligations of states, including the “maximum of available resources,” “self-determination” and “international assistance and cooperation”/extraterritorial obligations. However, the TGs make ample references to principles of international law, which imply all of these elements in implementation.

Then, Joseph focused on some of the progressive elements of the TGs that can be useful in local and regional CSO work (training, policy advocacy, monitoring, evaluation, etc.). These include the TG’s principles on public purpose acquisitions and evictions, as well as the meanings of “reparations” and “free, prior and informed consent” in the text and context of the TGs. Also relevant to the MENA region is the TGs’ reference to the principles of legal recognition and security of traditional land tenure and fair distribution of tenure.

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7 Generally, it does not provide sufficient examples of, or guidance on the uses of the TGs, not does it relay much of its contents or the normative bases of the guidelines, except for a technical pull-out table that links the TGs to the corresponding instruments and standards of international law. The treatment of conflict/occupation/war case application remains unresolved. The final version may take some more time.
He also explained how the TGs relate to subsequent developments and commitments of the FAO: working on protracted crises, rather than merely working in such situations, preventive and remedial approaches, and resolving root causes of food insecurity. On the subject of agricultural investments, the TGs guide seeks to protect and enable small producers.

**Discussion:** The ensuing discussion considered how CSOs in the region could contribute to developing and using the manual and the TGs in the course of their regular work in the future. The points of coherence and possible synergy of the TG principles with other development efforts were mentioned, and Joseph highlighted the ILO’s ongoing strategy for the region focusing on social protection and its “area of considerable importance” (AC15/عربي) in rural employment (“promoting decent work in the rural economy”) form points of potential program complementarity with both FAO and CSOs working on land issues. That remains a subject to develop in consultation with FAO/RNE, as well as the IPC and the manual’s current drafters.

**Two Working Groups**

The Land Forum was organized to allot time for two working groups. One working group focused on the processes and entry points for engagement with the World Bank, and the other focused on relationship between the FAO and MENA civil society, with a focus on technical support.

Each working group involved participants recounting their country-level and/or organization-specific engagement and objectives related to the respective international organizations. Then, they compiled a set of region-wide priorities for mutual support and collective engagement in support of common demands and objectives.

**World Bank Working Group**

In Egypt, colleagues have been involved in a series of consultations on the Safeguard Policy review and the Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCD). Further local consultations are planned for Cairo, Alexandria and Aswan. The WB’s priorities are focused on a neoliberal development model and anti-corruption, and to counter the development model CSOs in Egypt presented 10 recommendations to the processes.

In Palestine, the World Bank operates a partner of the Palestinian Authority. Since Salem Fayyad (former Bank official) served as Prime Minister, the Bank has extended $2.5 billion in debt to the State of Palestine at 9% interest. WB support from projects has emphasized “joint enterprises” (conjoining Palestinian and Israeli parties) in industrialization schemes, largely accommodating Israel's dispossession of Palestinians from their land-based economies.

The Bank operations in Yemen have involved limited CSO participation and produced few studies to ground WB interventions. So far, WB has had little focus on the priorities of transparency, taxation and customs reform. It has favored the removal of subsidies, resulting in rising prices. Civil society expects the Bank to continue social protection projects focused on relief and remedial programming; i.e., managing—not combatting—poverty.

The Bank’s CSO consultations in Yemen will continue in February 2015, but thus far have omitted participation from southern Yemen; generally speaking there has been little CSO participation, with a clear favoritism to the private sector. From these processes, theWB has focused largely on Public-Private Partnerships and the “Green economy,” which has neglected productive sectors and supported the financial-sector investment in activities that are environmentally damaging and unsustainable. The budget of the WB is also supporting loans for Syrian refugee relief.
The region has the following demands and objectives of ongoing WB processes:

- Promote greater tax justice
- Adopt better approach to protracted crises
- Adopt norm-based stewardship vis-à-vis the state
- Conduct CSO consultations as part of partnership strategy
- Greater movement toward Public-Private-Popular Partnerships (PPPP)
- Reform policy to force reduction in subsidies and social protection: "fiscal consolidation"
- Operationalize extraterritorial obligations in the area of economic, social and cultural rights
- Adjust policies and methods to include preventative programs; remedial efforts and project implementation must implement reparations for victims of gross violations
- Drop growth-only indicators of economic performance in favor of wealth-distribution criteria
- Safeguards must apply the CFS Tenure Guidelines as the core of natural resource-and land-related policies (as President Jim Yong Kim assured).

**FAO Working Group**

Each participant went around and shared the key land struggles that they are facing in their country and how FAO technical support and capacity development on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Land, Fisheries and Forests ("tenure guidelines") could potentially support these issues.

All colleagues reinforced the need for capacity development on tools and analysis methods, including international guidelines and human rights methodologies related to land, in particular on the Tenure Guidelines. They also stressed issues that were specific to their local experience, but can and should be strengthened more broadly on the regional level.

Across the region, many countries are faced with producing food on arid lands, or in areas that are threatened by desertification, a concern expressed particularly from our Algerian colleague. He also expressed the need for better water management training for local farmers, including distillation techniques. In Egypt these issues are also present, however the primary concern for farmers is secure tenure and land access, as the current situation in the country does not provide adequate land access or input services for peasants and small-scale food producers. Additionally, it was expressed that there is a need for promoting chemical-free production techniques and traditional methodology.

In situations of conflict and occupation all issues are made further exaggerated and precarious. Colleagues from Western Sahara expressed the need for various kinds of support from political to technical. Many food producers, including fisherfolk, require better training and technical support that can improve rural livelihoods, especially in the areas near the separation wall. The only lands available to cultivate are quite arid and require specialized knowledge for best practices, which include sustainable use of land and water resources. In Palestine, in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and particularly Zone C, first and foremost is the need for land access to produce food. This includes providing access routes for farmers whose land access was affected with constriction of the separation wall. Palestinians are consistently denied sufficient water access for consumption, sanitation and productive uses. Small-scale producers could benefit from increased technical support and capacity development in water harvesting systems, in particular the use of rainwater. Additionally Palestinians and the region generally, could use technical and policy support for the protection of forests/forest resources.
Many participants also expressed the situation of refugees and displaced persons, and the related issues of food security, including land access and aid policies. The ongoing negotiations on Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises taking place within the Committee on World Food Security provide a critical opportunity, and hopefully an important tool, for FAO to provide support (technical, etc.) to implement the policy.

**LF-V Conclusion and Recommendations**

The discussions in each session produced a variety of conclusions and recommendations, classified as (1) General Principles or common ethics of operation, (2) General Recommendations and Priorities for Action (not case specific), (3) Recommendations by Theme and (4) specific Recommended Actions of the Land Forum/Social Land Watch. Our scope needs to encompass also the situation of the poor and impoverishment in the coastal areas and the natural resources of the territorial sea [MA].

1. **General Principles:**

Our actions must adjust with the changing priorities and necessities [JT].

It is up to civil society to draw attention to root causes, not just symptoms of violations of economic and social rights. Civil society brings this focus to cooperation with influential institutions. He also commended the SLW initiative, stressing the importance of working at a professional level and with specialization that enables the attainment of goals commensurate with available resources of money, time and skills [JT].

The problem is not in the international legal instruments, but the mechanisms of application, and the awareness of individuals about their rights and how to claim them. Open access to such forums is needed for specific vital issues such as tenure and water, which are of interest to many people and sectors in independent countries and occupied territories alike [SJ].

Stressing the cultural and regionally specific component of natural-resource management the saying: "People are share in three things: water and pasture and fire" is from the prophetic tradition, but also originates from other, older sources. Its contemporary interpretation invokes arguments for equitable distribution and use, as well as public management of water, land and energy, rather than following the trend of privatizing these assets [KK].

J. Schechla and R. Wahba explained the Land Forum’s historic links to the World Social Forum, processes of the Habitat International Coalition and other gatherings of community-based CSOs, including the Solidarity Network initiative for peoples under foreign occupation and alien subjugation, domination and exploitation. In all cases, HLRN has sought to realize the added value in finding common cause and mutual support among seemingly diverse civil actors of all kinds, but especially the local and marginalized.

Wahba referred to HLRN efforts to exchange experiences in water resource management within its work on the right to water, in which most of the participants contributed to the publication *Reclaiming Public Water*. Wahba also emphasized the importance of RWFAR as a promising regional body to build CSO competence in advocating water rights, and pointed to the opportunities for a regional HLRN project prepared to support this forum.

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8. سنن ابن ماجه، الأحكام، 73–73، وأحاديث من رواه أحمد وأبو داود وصححه الألباني، وسلمان الفارسي.

In addressing the rights of victims to “reparations” (جبر الضرر) and its various elements, an initial suspicion arises about the potential attempts of governments to demand strict “reparations” from informal users of “state lands” [JT]. One way to ensure against such a distortion is to retain focus on the international law definition of the rights of victims to remedy and reparations for gross human rights violations\(^{10}\) [JS].

On the subject of food security and food systems, Hassan Sherry urged attention to the human rights dimension and to beware of the manipulation of intellectual property rights to create monopolies, and how governments treat binding agreements as optional and applied them selectively, according to perceived self-interests.

Baher Shawky, ECCLR (Egypt) raised a fundamental challenge to bridge the gap between rights and the language and concept taught as political science. The notion of the state, for example, in our region needs to be developed to clarify its role vis-à-vis public ownership. Does it mean government ownership of resources, and what is meant by “state property” if the state is comprised of its people(s). The right to property and its social function need to be reconsidered, especially in light of misuse by authoritarian regimes and the pro-business and investment bias of governments. He pointed to the recent and ongoing constitutional and legal reform processes as a context requiring the further explanation of what is meant by private property, social function of property, and the limits of both. \[ \]

Mohamed Amroun (Algeria) emphasized the common priority of building technical capacity for the rehabilitation of lands, especially in dry areas. This competence is especially needed in the North Africa region, where efforts need also to address rising unemployment and declining social protection (what HS referred to as a function of “fiscal consolidation.”) Building this competence calls for more coordination and sharing of expertise in a more-targeted and/or project form across civil society on a regional basis.

The discussions raised several consensus issues and recommendations for CSO activity, including joint activity. These included:

2. General Recommendations and Priorities for Action:

- Affirm that the “right to land” concept relates to all kinds of state-land, fallow, abandoned and disused land and commons and its buildings, trees and real estate and construction. It also, includes forests and grasslands, and also means rights in coastal waters and rivers and fisheries.
- Land should not be subject to privatization and ownership by multinational companies, and may not be regarded as a market commodity in the international speculation market.
- Increase the number of smallholder farmers and farm families to achieve a greater proportion of the total land utilized for agriculture, distributed in a fair proportion.
- Implement women’s full rights, in particular, land tenure for rural women and those who are leading families.
- Advocate government, donor and development agency interventions to repair the combined effects of land loss and debt burdens on small-holding farmers and their families.
- Advocate and seek opportunities for integrated approaches the improve livelihoods, exercise rights to organize, boost productivity and ensure social protection, taking advantage of potential synergies and coherence among CSO activities and development agency programming; e.g., seeks partnerships linking ILO’s “area of considerable

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importance” in “promoting decent work in the rural economy” with social protection and technical FAO inputs that apply the Tenure Guidelines.

- Increase the cultivated area by supporting land reclamation and development and preservation to combat desertification and degradation, especially in light of climate change. The indication here is at least to double the current proportion of cultivated lands.
- Forest protection, development, rational management and increase its geographical coverage as a buffer against climate change.
- Protect and conserve fisheries in the seas and rivers that are seriously affected because of the pollution and degradation caused by the human abuse.

3. Recommendations by Theme:

Each session of presentations and the following discussion produced a series of thematic recommendations as operational principles and priorities for common work. The contributions from both presenters and discussants are combined here according to their context of theme.

In the context of conflict, occupation and war situations:

In addition to the above principles, the subject of land and food sovereignty in situations of conflict, occupation and war require special efforts to:

- Promote the concept of safeguarding national sovereignty on the ground.
- Develop and improve the concept of individual right to national affiliation to land as a right to tenure and use.
- Pursuit of accountability for any procedures on any occupied land and related property rights and use, whether forced or consensual, that deprive or illicitly grant rights, owing to confiscation or exploitation of land, displacement and expulsion of the indigenous people, or replacing them with alien settlers, demolition of homes and the denial of the right to housing, and the closure and the siege of the territorial waters and prevent fishermen from fishing.
- Specifically prohibiting any and all actions undertaken by the occupation of any land that includes re-titling of land and other properties; and/or occupation by persons, or companies or associations either ownership or renting, selling or buying; and that any such action does not cancel the original land and property rights of the indigenous owners.
- The international community and its institutions to force the occupying power and those who support it to implement full reparations for all the losses resulting from the manipulation of the rights to the land and agriculture, forestry, fisheries, water and housing, on the basis of methodologies and standards of international law and legitimacy [JT]
- Support efforts to apply multiple legal regimes and principles of international law to cases of “foreign occupation and alien subjugation or domination.” This may include use joining campaigns to invoke the international tribunals such as the International Criminal Court, on the case of land/natural resource exploitation and colonization of Palestine, Cyprus and/or Western Sahara, and/or a bid for an International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the construction of a wall in the occupied Sahrawi territory [JS].

In the context of transitional justice:

- Pressure and influence the development of transitional justice measures in the framework of an integrated system, not separate actions that can be separated out and obstructed;
- Create a more-permanent cooperation mechanism among CSOs and raise the level of their performance, in order to achieve transitional justice;
- Implement transitional justice in an integrated approach to address human rights violations, especially given the diversity of actors in the violations;
• Raise the priority of reparations and policy reform address dispossessed farmers and pastoralists in TJ processes;
• Involve women and victims in the implementation of the transitional justice process;
• Increase awareness of the community about transitional justice and mechanisms to achieve social solidarity;
• Adopt clear standards for international cooperation in the implementation of transitional justice through interventions that include all groups to focus on the victims [MA].

**On the context of trade policies:**
• Reform the rules under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) and Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (ASCM) that allow for developed countries to provide billions in trade-distorting domestic support.
• Allow Arab and developing countries to implement public stockholding programs that are of major importance to the lives of millions of small farmers, as well as to food security and poverty eradication.
• Improve trade facilitation suitable to each country, rather than through binding obligations subject to dispute settlement and possible trade sanctions.
• Arab countries should ensure that enhancing trade facilitation must not be at the expense of public spending on health, education, food security and poverty alleviation.
• Arab and developing countries should push for an effective implementation of developed countries' obligations on special and differential treatment (SDTs), including through providing long-term and specific financial and technical assistance, as well as capacity building in accordance with the needs of Arab countries for implementing their obligations.
• In any future negotiations, Arab countries should ensure that their ability to use tariffs for industrialisation purposes is guaranteed. Historical evidence suggests that all rich countries have used adequate tariffs in certain sectors and industries prior to their development [HS].

**4. Recommended Actions for the Land Forum/SLW:**
• We cannot limit the civil society to some organizations or certain formations. The LF should continue to relate to the World Social Forum and other civil forums, the national and Arab-wide discourse, including that addressing the continuous forms of colonialism [Mohammed Salman, WAFA (Tunisia)].
• Produce an inventory and mapping of civil society organizations, actors and social movements advocating land rights and supporting small farmers in the MENA region, their capabilities and opportunities for engagement in international forums, as well as participating in local events on the decision-making level, whether academic or even governmental ones, with an emphasis on the role of the SLW [KK, KJ, RW, JS].
• A diagnostic, analytical and comparative study on land-management systems and the related laws and its historical development and economic and social impact on the level of our region (MENA), applying a uniform scientific methodology. That study should provide a comparative analysis of the region's experience in the financialization of land and agriculture [JT].
• Raising awareness about the relevant international norms and how to use them in local, regional and international-level advocacy.
• Develop and deliver training on the contents, legal basis and practical application of the Tenure Guidelines specifically for the region.
• Coordinate CSO engagement in relevant FAO and other international forums.
• Coordinate capacity building in water management appropriate for dry areas.
• Administer capacity building in the establishment and management of agricultural coops.
- Administer capacity building in the establishment and management of associations/unions/cooperatives of small-holding farmers. ✓
- Coordinate capacity building for small-holding farmers in adapting to climate change.

✓ indicates that this activity is already within the capacity and program of HLRN and/or the Land Forum.

**Conclusion**

In the final session, J. Schechla presented a prototype of an exercise to determine the opportunities for CSO engagement in ongoing global and region-wide processes dealing with land tenure. The mapping exercise would be too lengthy and complex to accomplish in a single session, and each organization would have its own priorities. However, the table of opportunities serves two purposes: (1) to envision at once the parallel activities and forums that are affecting land, natural resource-management and food policies at the global level, and (2) to provide a format for organizing the task of mapping which CSOs are engaged in which processes, on which issues, in which countries and at what times. The advantage of (2) is to enable CSOs to find synergies, join forces and pool scarce resources for greater cooperation toward optimum outcomes. The prototype could serve as a basis for a future survey to coordinate the region’s civil society research, capacity-building and advocacy effort in the new biennium.
# Land Forum in the Middle East / North Africa

Taking it to the Next Level: Linking Local Issues to Global Human Rights and Development Processes

Housing and Land Rights Network: Habitat International Coalition

Hotel du Parc, Tunis
5–7 December 2014

## Friday, 5 December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Facilitator(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00–09:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Slips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:30–10:00</td>
<td>Welcome to the MENA Land Forum V</td>
<td>Joseph Schechla, HIC-HLRN Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00–10:30</td>
<td>Land Forum Past and Looking Forward</td>
<td>Rabie Wahba</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30–11:00</td>
<td>“The Land and Its People”</td>
<td>Joseph Schechla</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00–11:30</td>
<td>Human Rights Dimensions of Land</td>
<td>Joseph Schechla</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30–11:30</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>Slips</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30–11:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Slips</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30–12:15</td>
<td>International Processes Related to Land</td>
<td>Emily Mattheisen - HIC-HLRN - Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15–13:30</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
<td>Slips</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30–14:30</td>
<td>International Processes and Advocacy at the Regional Level</td>
<td>Emily Mattheisen</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30–15:30</td>
<td>Rome-based Processes: CSM and IPC</td>
<td>Emily Mattheisen &amp; Mauro Conti, IPC - Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30–15:30</td>
<td>The World Bank and Land Tenure</td>
<td>Baher Shawky, ECCLR - Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30–15:30</td>
<td>Public Budgets and Land</td>
<td>Rabie Wahba</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30–15:30</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015</td>
<td>Joseph Schechla</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30–15:45</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>Slips</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:45–16:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Slips</td>
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## Saturday, 6 December

### Organizing Grassroots Movements in MENA, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Facilitator(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00–11:00</td>
<td>Peasant Organizing</td>
<td>Basheer Saqr, PCSEP – Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00–11:00</td>
<td>Natural Resources and Self-determination: Land, Fisheries and Aquaculture</td>
<td>Gaici Nah, ASAVIM – Western Sahara</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00–11:00</td>
<td>Arab Civil Society on World Development, Trade and Investment</td>
<td>Hassan Sherry, ANND – Lebanon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Speaker/Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00–11:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15–12:30</td>
<td><strong>FAO Regional Processes</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Presentation of FAO regional program and opportunity for exchange and discussion with civil society</td>
<td>Kayan Jaff, FAO-RNE (Egypt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30–13:00</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00–14:30</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00–15:45</td>
<td>Open forum for participants to exchange their regional case studies and the existing relevant international processes, focusing cases covered, values at stake, alternative solutions and advocacy opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:45–16:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00–17:30</td>
<td>Equitable Land Tenure in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals: Land-related Issues and CSO Positions</td>
<td>Joseph Schechla</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:30–18:00</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, 7 December</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00–10:45</td>
<td>&quot;Training&quot; on the TGs, Utilizing the &quot;Popular Manual&quot;: From Principles toward Practical Applications</td>
<td>Joseph Schechla</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45–11:00</td>
<td>Break/distribution of roles</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00–12:30</td>
<td><strong>Working Groups: Local Issues and Strategic Priorities in Global Processes</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Group 1</strong>: Role of Civil Society in Advocacy within International Financial Institutions: World Bank Group</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Group 2</strong>: Role of Small-scale Food Producers and Civil Society Actors in FAO/Rome-based Agency Processes</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30–13:00</td>
<td>Reporting outcomes to plenary</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00–14:30</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30–16:00</td>
<td>Opportunities for Regional Strategy Plan for Advocacy and Strategy Plan, 2015–16</td>
<td>Joseph Schechla</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00–16:15</td>
<td>Land Issues in Tunisia’s Current Transition</td>
<td>Karim Akrout, NUTF - Tunisia</td>
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<td>16:15–16:30</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:30–16:45</td>
<td>Concluding Remarks</td>
<td>Joseph Schechla and Rabie Wahba</td>
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</table>
## Annex II

**Land Forum – V List of Participants**


 المنتدى الأرض في الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا “الانتقال إلى المستوى التالي: قضايا محلية ضمن عمليات عالمية”

تّونس، 5–7 كانون الأول/ديسمبر 2014

### Participants List / قائمة المشاركين

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Organization/affiliation</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Arabic Name</th>
<th>Organization/Institution</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Muaamed Amroun</td>
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<td>Rabie Wahba</td>
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<td>Shadi Jaradat</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
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<td>Yasser Abdelkader</td>
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<td>ياسر عبد القادر</td>
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ملحق ANNEX III

原型 Prototype for Mapping Exercise/Survey

عمليات عالمية لوضع معايير ولصباغة سياسات خاصة لإدارة الأرض والموارد الطبيعية

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الدوري الشامل

مجلس حقوق الإنسان: الحكومة المحلية الموئل الثالث أهداف التنمية المستدامة أهداف التنمية المستدامة

منظمة العمل الدولية

منظمة الأغذية والزراعة: الماء

منظمة الأغذية والزراعة: الأزمات الممتدة

منظمة الأغذية والزراعة: الإطار القطرى للمشاركة

منظمة الأغذية والزراعة:
والزراعة:
الخطوط التوجيهية للحيرة

مجموعة البنك الدولي:
الإطار القطرى للمشاركة

مجموعة البنك الدولي:
الدراسات التشخيصية

مجموعة البنك الدولي:
السياسات الحمائية
ANNEX IV

Background References for Land Forum - V

Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action [عربي] (1996);
Millennium Declaration for the Cities [عربي] (2001);
“Coordinated implementation of the Habitat II Agenda: Report of the Secretary General,” E/2012/65, 4 May 2012 [عربي];
UN-Habitat, “Guidelines and Format for the Preparation of National Reports: On Six Key Topics, Thirty Issues and Twelve Indicators” [عربي] and subsequent corrected versions.

Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals/الأهداف الإنمائية ما بعد 2015

The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2014 [عربي];
The Arab Millennium Development Goals Report: Facing Challenges and Looking beyond 2015 [عربي];

CFS Agenda for Action for addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises

Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security [عربي] (2004);
Draft Framework for Action for Addressing Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises [عربي] (1 August 2014);
E-discussion outcome reports.

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

Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security [عربي] (2004);
FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests and Fisheries [عربي] (2011);
Civil Society Submission + Annex.

A/HRC/23/NGO/85, 24 May 2013;

Other/

Global Land Tools Network (GLTN) processes; e.g., Global Land Indicators Initiative, Social Tenure Domain Model, etc.; UN Special Rapporteur Raquel Rolnik, Guiding Principles on Security of Tenure for the Urban Poor, A/HRC/25/54, 30 December 2013.
HIC-HLRN Middle East/North Africa Program

The Middle East/North Africa regional program of Habitat International Coalition’s Housing and Land Rights Network addresses the need for civil society participation in public affairs by applying the criteria and methodology of human rights and corresponding state obligations as a defining framework for civil discourse. The ultimate objective of this program is to operationalize human rights by developing civil society actors’ knowledge and capacity that enable direct engagement with decision makers at all levels to address complex policy issues and pose practical solutions to governance dilemmas related to habitat and related public resources.

HLRN’s MENA program combines diverse strategies to upholding housing and land rights, ranging from popular and legal initiatives to posing alternatives to the privatization of public and environmental goods and services, which affect housing and land rights. Activities promote adequate housing, land and water management as public goods and services; land and water as indispensable resources related to food sovereignty; as well as all relevant technologies, ethical principles and other culturally specific values for guiding equitable management of land and natural resources.

The MENA region is exceptionally suitable as a focus for this discussion, with its conspicuous features of foreign occupation, and land and water scarcity and dispossession that affect livelihoods and development. The land, water and other resource dimensions of self-determination threaten indigenous peoples in the region, and people’s sovereignty in general.

The MENA Program promotes the development of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) culture in the region and builds capacity by providing training, appropriate methodologies for housing rights monitoring and legal defense, access to international forums, tools and techniques for monitoring ESCR; and related opportunities for cooperation with the UN human rights system and other multilateral forums. Thus, HLRN’s MENA program contributes to the region’s discourse on ESC-rights and globalization, and organizes regional and inter-regional exchanges of expertise. HLRN seeks to help create the context for MENA communities and housing rights defenders to develop practical skills, to work cooperatively and develop solidarity regionally and with social movements elsewhere. HIC-MENA’s on-line resources also provide self-service databases and archives with unique Arabic-language resources on the human right to adequate housing and related human rights.

For more information on the MENA Program and HIC-HLRN membership, go to: www.hic-mena.org.