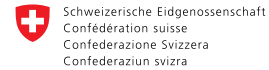




INTERNATIONAL  
**LAND  
COALITION** | AFRICA  
AFRIQUE



Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

# IGAD REGIONAL WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS CONFERENCE



THEME



Beyond Policy: Accelerating actions towards achieving  
Women's Land tenure security in the IGAD Region

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ▶ 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Introduction

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is a Regional Economic Community of the Africa Union. Member States include Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. IGAD's mission is "to assist and complement the efforts of the Member States through increased cooperation to achieve food security and environmental protection, promotion and maintenance of peace and security and humanitarian affairs, and economic cooperation and integration." The IGAD Member States have diverse priorities for achieving national development, key and common among them is on efficient and sustainable use of land and natural resources.

The IGAD Land Governance Programme launched in 2015 is aimed at helping IGAD and its Member States to address the various land policy and governance issues and constraints faced by countries in the East and the Horn of Africa. IGAD believes that the existence of and implementation of gender-responsive land policies by the Member States that reflect regional and global frameworks provides core foundations for addressing women's land rights challenges. IGAD multiplies the power of its strategies through advocacy campaigns and close partnerships, Member States- particularly Ministries responsible for Lands, Ministries responsible for Agriculture, Ministries accountable for Gender, Ministries responsible for justice, civil society organizations, research institutions, academia and the private sector particularly the financial institutions.

The Land Governance programme is currently implementing its 10-year business plan for period 2020-2030 with 4 strategic objectives:

- a) Land administration in IGAD region is more efficient, harmonized and gender-inclusive;
- b) Enable sustainable development through strategic gender-sensitive and conflict-sensitive approach to land use and management;
- c) Increased Member States capacity to leverage land (rural, peri-urban and urban) for economic transformation and;



- d) Reduced barriers and enhance protection of women's rights to land in the public and private sphere.

IGAD Land Governance Programme derives its mandate from the AU framework on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa. It is responsible for ensuring that the IGAD Member States have the necessary prerequisite capacity to close the gender gap in the land sector and deliver global and regional commitments. The program intends to create a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the women's land rights commitments made in achieving gender equality in land at both regional and global levels:

- The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests and Fisheries (VGGT).
- AU Agenda 2063.
- The sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030).
- The Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods 2014.
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol).
- AU Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa (2010).
- Niamey convention - AU Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation, 2014

Currently the IGAD Land Governance programme is funded by the Swiss development Agency and the Sweden Embassy in Ethiopia. This IGAD Region Women's Land Rights Conference (IRWLRC) is co-organized by the IGAD Land Governance Unit, the IGAD Member States, the academia, development partners and civil society organizations working on women's rights and land rights in the IGAD region



## Agenda for Women's Land Rights in IGAD Region

In the region and everywhere in the world, women are significant contributors to the social and economic survival and wellbeing of households and communities. Although women are the majority producers of the food we feed on (approximately 80% of agricultural producers), patriarchal norms have bestowed power over land to men, and women have a subordinate position. This position prevents them from enjoying their land rights and participating in land reforms, particularly at a decision-making level. Although most legal frameworks (including the Constitutions) for the IGAD Member States are progressive, the practices and implementation of the same are different. The challenge revolves around implementation and enforcement. Even in countries where good laws exist, women frequently do not enjoy their rights to access and control productive resources. Implementation is too often hindered by sociocultural norms and women's lack of knowledge of their entitlements. As such, women's land rights are not well promoted and protected because attitudes towards women at family, community level, and institutional levels have not shifted in a manner that enables the translation of policy into practice.

The obstacles which prevent women from effectively enjoying these rights are complex and to a large extent context specific. Still, many overarching similarities are apparent in the region. Barriers which prevent women's access to, control and use of land include; inadequate legal standards and/or insufficient understanding of the legal plurality governing women's land rights as well as discriminatory cultural attitudes and practices at the institutional and community level. Limited awareness of women's rights exclusion or underrepresentation of women in land-related institutions, inadequate access to justice for women due to inefficient land dispute resolution mechanisms are also significant impediments in implementation of women's statutory rights;

In many communities gender disparities with regard to land and other productive resources are linked to assumptions that men, as heads of households, control and manage land - implicitly reflecting ideas that women are incapable of managing productive resources



such as land effectively, that productive resources given to women are “lost to another family” in the event of marriage, divorce or (male) death, and that men will provide for women’s financial security. Challenging these discriminatory ideas is critical. For women to gain ground in land ownership, access, and control, there must be gender transformation towards equality.

There should be deliberate efforts to challenge the norms and traditions that have held women back in secondary position as regards land ownership leads to sustainable engagements of women in the land governance processes.

In recent years there has been increased recognition of the importance of women’s access to, use of and control over productive resources, including land. This transformation must have been observed in ways governments legislate and delivers programs for women’s land rights. Although most legal and policy frameworks on land (including the Constitutions) of IGAD Member States are progressive, there is a considerable disconnect between policy and action. Thus, Women’s land rights are not well promoted and protected because attitudes towards women’s land ownership have not significantly shifted to enable the translation of policy into practice. Continued efforts are needed to promote gender-sensitive legislation, enforce existing legislation, make judicial systems more accessible and responsive to women, and provide legal aid to women seeking to claim their rights.

This regional Conference is one of the platforms that IGAD aims to continuously promote to enhance women’s leadership in land governance as well as build consensus at the local level on requisite national level actions for better protection and advancement of women’s rights to land for equitable and transformative change in the land sector. The planned Conference therefore aims to respond to some of the challenges and; create a safe space for the targeted audience of different social, economic, and religious beliefs and background to dialogue with State and non-state land actors and find amicable solutions in addressing women’s land rights.



Considering that women are not a homogenous group, concerns of intersections of women (including; married women, female household heads, widows, rural & urban women, illiterate, educated, the elderly, women with disabilities among others) will be at the center of the land debate. It will also allow land actors. (State and Non-state actors) to scrutinize their policy and programming interventions and identify pitfalls that hinder promotion and protection of women's land rights, while peer learning from best practices in the Additionally, the Conference will be a knowledge building forum that will create a need for further research on critical emerging issues. Emerging issues will inform the Agenda for the subsequent conferences or platform to further dissect and find amicable solutions to the root causes of gender injustices in the land sector. A number of initiatives geared towards closing the gender gap on Land access and control including the regional community of practice on women and Land, documentation of gender sensitive best practices, ongoing documentary of women's Land rights lived experiences, and Gender assessment of the land sector among others, will all feed into the IGAD Region Women's Land rights conference.

It is against this background that the IGAD Land Governance Programme is organizing a regional virtual Conference on Women's Land Rights, with the theme: ***Beyond Policy: Accelerating actions towards achieving Women's Land tenure security in the GAD Region.*** The Conference will run from 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.



## Conference Goal

To deepen multi-stakeholder collaboration and agency for the protection and promotion of women's rights to land through learning, experience sharing, and collective action across the IGAD Region.

## Conference Outlook and Target Audience

The Conference will create a safe space for women of different social, economic, and religious beliefs and backgrounds to dialogue with state and non-state land actors and find amicable solutions to local and national challenges. The Conference will also create space for member states to renew their commitments to deliver on regional women's Land Rights targets.

As a virtual conference, it's open to all Land stakeholders across the globe and targeting a minimum of 400 participants. In the IGAD region, the Conference will be attended by a wide range of actors mainly: -

1. Land actors at the national level; Parliamentarians, Ministers, the justice sector, and the land sector;
2. A selection of local government officials in the IGAD Member States including Local Government Associations;
3. Customary/traditional institutions with responsibilities over land;
4. Development partners financing land-related sectors (such as land, agriculture, environment, natural resources, livestock development, infrastructure development) and women's rights programs;
5. Grassroots women and their organizations.



## Specific Objectives


1. To establish and strengthen a multi-stakeholder platform on gender and land for knowledge sharing and peer learning that is grounded in the experiences and realities of each country of the IGAD Region.
2. To Establish accountability mechanisms for monitoring implementation of IGAD Member States Women's land Rights Agenda
3. Harness women's collective voice and participation in defining the regional women's land rights discourse










## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE


### DAY 1: 28th June 2021

Time	Topic	Methodology	Moderator
9:00- 10: 00 am	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IGAD AED Director</li> <li>• ILC Africa Director</li> <li>• AU Gender Desk</li> <li>• Sweden and SDC Representatives</li> <li>• IGAD Executive Secretary</li> <li>• IGAD Chair</li> </ul>		<b>IGAD Staff</b>
10:00-11:30 am	<b>Agenda Setting:</b> The State of Women's Land Rights in IGAD Region	Live Presentation & plenary	
11:30–1:00pm	<b>Presentation 1: MS South Sudan</b> Women's Land Rights Agenda, Policy and Programme Initiatives	 Pre recorded Live Presentation & plenary	
	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>		
1:00- 1:20	Video	NA	

Time	Topic		Methodology	Moderator
1:20- 2:50	<b>Presentation 2: MS Ethiopia</b>		Pre recorded	
2:20:- 2:50	Women's Land Rights Agenda, Policy and Programme Initiatives		live	
	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>			
2:50- 3:00	Video		NA	
3:00- 4:30	<b>Presentation 3- MS Sudan</b>		Pre recorded	
	Women's Land Rights Agenda, Policy and Programme initiatives			
	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>			
4:30- 4:40	<b>Emerging issues from Day 1 - Moderator</b>		Live session	Plenary
4:40-5:00	Video		NA	

**DAY 2: 29th June 2021**

Time	Topic		Methodology	Moderator
9:00- 9:20 am	Opening Video		Live session	
9:20-10:50 am	<b>Presentation 4 - MS Djibouti</b> Women's Land Rights Agenda, policy and programme initiatives		Pre recorded Plenary Discussions - Presentation 4	Ms. Naome Kabanda
	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>			
11:00-12:30pm	<b>Presentation 5- MS Uganda</b> Women's Land Rights Agenda, Policy Programme initiatives		Pre recorded Plenary Discussions - Presentation 5	
	<b>Q &amp; A session</b>			
12:30- 12:50 pm	Video		NA	
12:50- 2 :20 pm	<b>Presentation 6- MS Somalia</b> Women's Land Right Agenda, Policy and Programme Initiatives		Pre recorded	
	<b>Q &amp; A sessions</b>		Live Presentation	

Time	Topic		Methodology	Moderator
2:20- 3:50 pm	<b>Presentation 7- MS Kenya</b>		Pre recorded	
3:20- 3:50 pm	Women's Land Rights Agenda, Policy and Programme Initiatives		Live session	
	<b>Q &amp; A session</b>			
3:50-4:00 pm	Kilimanjaro Initiative		NA	
4:00-5:00 pm	<b>Panel Session</b>		Live	
	<p>AU Land and Gender Desk- Alignment of Country Agenda align with Regional and Global Gender and Land Commitments and Recommendations</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A session</b></p>			

**DAY 3: 30th June 2021**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
9:00- 9:30	Gender and Land Data and statistics	Live session	Moderator 3
9:30-10:30	Potential implications of Gender (in) equality to Agricultural Productivity Q&A session	Live - Plenary	
10:30- 11:30	<b>3 Breakout Sessions &amp; Panel Discussions</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land, Gender and Religion</li> <li>2. Women's Leadership</li> <li>3. Gender, Land and Urbanism</li> </ol>	Live - Plenary	
11:30-12:30am	<b>Feedback from breakout sessions</b>	Live - Plenary	
12:30: -1:30	<b>3 Breakout Sessions &amp; Panel Discussions</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Women's Land Rights in Customary tenure arrangements</li> <li>5. Women and Pastoralist communities</li> <li>6. Youth and Land</li> </ol>	Live - Plenary	



Time	Topic	Methodology	Moderator
1:30- 2:30	<b>Feedback from breakout sessions</b>	Live - Plenary	
2:30-3:30	<p><b>Panel session:</b></p> <p>Formal and informal Land justice systems</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A session</b></p>		
3:30- 4:00	<b>Summary of Emerging issues</b>	Live - Plenary	
4:00-:4:40	<p><b>Closing sessions</b></p> <p>Video</p> <p><b>CLOSING REMARKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IGAD AED Director</b></li> <li>• <b>ILC Director</b></li> <li>• <b>Sweden and SDC Representatives</b></li> <li>• <b>AU Land Desk</b></li> <li>• <b>IGAD Executive Secretary</b></li> </ul>	Live	

