

A Variety of Continuums for Citizen Centric Land Administration

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SUMMARY

The 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. Access to ‘basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance’ is included in the targets.

One of the instruments for realisation and implementation of this target is in the development of land administration. At this moment many of the people to land relationships are not yet documented: the descriptions of spatial units and related right holders simply do not exist. This implies that access to land can’t be enforced nor guaranteed. Conventional approaches in production and maintenance of land information seem not to perform – alternatives are needed.

The continuum of land rights approach to land tenure incorporates rights that are documented as well as undocumented, formal as well as informal, including individuals and groups, and including pastoralists, slums and settlements which are legal as well as extra-legal. The term ‘continuum’ applies to land rights, but also to other key dimensions relevant in land administration. Great variations in methods and results are possible, depending on the particular implementation context – there is a ‘variety of continuums’ with a continuum of (participation of) parties, of representation of spatial units, of data acquisition methods/technologies (with a related continuum of geometric accuracy), of recordation/contents/quality, of information management/organisation and a continuum in purposes of land administration. There is even a continuum in professional and stakeholders attitude.

The paper will introduce and illustrate this variety of continuums. This paper can be considered as a basis for debate and for further development of approaches in field and office work for citizen

centric land administration. Goal is making land administration implementable.

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