

# **Leveraging Land Administration for Transparent, Diversified and Predictable Internally Generated Revenue (IGR)**

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## **SUMMARY**

It has long been the case for governments to rely primarily or in some cases exclusively, on a single source for their revenue. In many emerging market economies, this reliance often is in the natural resources sector, typically in the forms of oil, gas, gold and other high value extractives. This creates a significant vulnerability to these already fragile economies – surplus when the markets are up, but significant shortfalls when the markets are low. Additionally, when there is an extreme event, either in the market or in the environment, the ability to respond and recover financial stability quickly is critical.

There are many mechanisms that could bring diversity to an internal revenue generation portfolio and thus bring improved stability to an economy. The focus of this paper is on one of these opportunities: land and the rights associated with its use, ownership and access. Because land or land rights are typically the single biggest asset for both the country and the individual person, the development of a comprehensive strategy to ensure a long-term, viable and sustainable approach to land administration is critical to the ongoing ability to leverage the asset. Importantly, land is the foundation for managing sub-assets and rights allocations within a country such as natural resources, transportation corridors, agriculture/food security and many others. It is also the key to future planning for not only development, but also effective management during all events whether driven by market, force majeure or external foes. Therefore, the significance of the over-arching asset, that is the land/land rights, is that it is the technical, legal and financial and security foundation for the on-going success of these dependent activities.

This paper will present the impacts and challenges of a diversified IGR that includes land in the financial portfolio, taking into account that land is the source of livelihood, cultural identity, and family continuity for the individual and the country, and therefore requires that these many

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components all play a role in defining how land and land rights assets are defined, identified, defended and leveraged within a boundary or jurisdiction.

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