



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION



IGAD REGIONAL WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS CONFERENCE

THEME: Beyond Policy: Accelerating Actions towards Achieving Women's Land Tenure Security in the IGAD Region

28th – 30th June 2021

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

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. The Member States have diverse priorities for achieving national development, key and common among them is; 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 faced by countries in the region. The Land Governance programme is currently implementing its 10-year business plan for period 2020-2030 with 4 strategic objectives:

- Land administration in IGAD region is more efficient, harmonized and gender-inclusive;
- Enable sustainable development through strategic gender-sensitive and conflict-sensitive approach to land use and management;
- Increased Member States capacity to leverage land (rural, peri-urban and urban) for economic transformation and;
- Reduced barriers and enhance protection of women's rights to land in the public and private sphere.

These strategies are being implemented in close partnerships with, Member States- particularly Ministries responsible for Lands, Agriculture, Gender and Justice, together with civil society organizations, research institutions, academia and the private sector.

The mandate of the IGAD Land Governance Programme is derived 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 on the following global and regional 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

This IGAD Regional Women's Land Rights Conference (IRWLRC) is co-organized by the IGAD Land Governance Unit, the IGAD Member States, International Land Coalition-Africa (ILC-Africa), the academia, development partners and civil society organizations working on women's rights in the IGAD region.

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 and youth 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: -

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

Specific Objectives

- 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.
- To Establish accountability mechanisms for monitoring implementation of IGAD Member States Women's land Rights Agenda
- Harness women's collective voice and participation in defining the regional Women's Land Rights Agenda discourse

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