



## Session Reporting Template

### Important guidance on the reporting for the Second Arab Land Conference

1. The lead organization is responsible to **nominate a rapporteur** for the session before the event and not later than the 15 February and to communicate the name of the rapporteur to the organizers by sending an email to Nicolò Bedino ([nicolo.bedino@un.org](mailto:nicolo.bedino@un.org)).
2. The report of the session needs to be sent to the organizers within **48 hours from the end of the session** and at the latest on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (midnight), using the following email address: [unhabitat-arablandinitiative@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-arablandinitiative@un.org) Please follow this reporting template for your report.
3. The rapporteur is also responsible to **collect the presentations and papers presented** in the sessions and send them to the organizers together with the report at the same email address (if needed using zip folders, Wettransfer or Dropbox).
4. The **language** of the report can be English (preferred), or Arabic, or French.
5. For any **questions**, please contact Nicolò Bedino ([nicolo.bedino@un.org](mailto:nicolo.bedino@un.org)).

Thanks a lot for contributing to a quality Arab Land Conference's report!

<b>Session's title</b>	Masterclass 3 : Capacity development to enable good land governance [NELGA NA, SLGA, ALPC, GLTN, WB, FAO, ILC, GLA, GIZ, Yilaa] <b>Towards a common strategy for strengthening Capacity Development in The Arab Region</b>
<b>Session date and time</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> of February 2021 <b>Masterclass 1 B: 10:30 to 12:00</b>
<b>Lead organization</b>	GLTN
<b>Name of Rapporteur</b>	Nabila Zouhri (NELGA North Africa Advisor / GIZ - SLGA Programme) Jennifer Aghaji (ALPC, NELGA Secretariat)
<b>Session Chair</b> (Name, Title, Organization, email address)	Ms. Ombretta Tempra, Chair GLTN Arab action programme, GLTN, <a href="mailto:ombretta.tempra@un.org">ombretta.tempra@un.org</a> Mr. Willi Zimmermann, Arab Land Initiative, <a href="mailto:willi.e.zimmerman@gmail.com">willi.e.zimmerman@gmail.com</a>
<b>List of Speakers / Presenters</b> (Name, Title, Organization, email address)	Ms. Ombretta Tempra, Chair GLTN Arab action programme, GLTN, <a href="mailto:ombretta.tempra@un.org">ombretta.tempra@un.org</a> Prof. Doaa M. El-Sherif, Professor Executive Director, <a href="mailto:doaa_elsherif@yahoo.com">doaa_elsherif@yahoo.com</a> Mr. Durant, Jean Maurice (PSPL) Senior Land Tenure Expert <a href="mailto:Jeanmaurice.durand@fao.org">Jeanmaurice.durand@fao.org</a> Mr. Rabie Wahba, EMENA Focal Point Arab region <a href="mailto:r.morsywahba@landcoalition.org">r.morsywahba@landcoalition.org</a> Prof. Abdalla Gad, Senior Professor NARSS Egypt, <a href="mailto:abdallagad1@gmail.com">abdallagad1@gmail.com</a> Mr. Innocent Antoine Houedji Coordinator, Mr. DIALLO, Youth Initiative for Land in Africa (YILA), <a href="mailto:amethdiallo45@gmail.com">amethdiallo45@gmail.com</a>

	Prof. Moha El Ayachi, Prof. and coordinator NELGA North Africa, <a href="mailto:m.elayachi@iav.ac.ma">m.elayachi@iav.ac.ma</a>
	Mr. Willi Zimmermann, Moderator, Arab Land Initiative <a href="mailto:willi.e.zimmermann@gmail.com">willi.e.zimmermann@gmail.com</a>

**SESSION'S REPORT**

**1. Introduction of the session**

Willi Zimmermann introduced the session by pointing out that Capacity Development is key to enable land governance in the Arab region and is therefore accepted as a strategic chapter in the Arab Land Initiative ALI. It is a process, an approach, and an outcome through integrated actions to strengthen land interventions' quality and quantity, which ensures social equity, optimize the use of resources and safeguards the land governance space in the Arab region. This includes further developing the strengths, seizing opportunities, neutralizing the weaknesses, addressing or avoiding the threats, recognizing obstacles to development and designing strategies to avoid or tackle them and successfully implementing these and finally exploring the impact of their inputs at the societal level and at contributing to the development of enabling frameworks to improve performance capability at the individual, organizational and societal levels.

The **capacity development masterclass** shared best practices and areas of intervention and depicts how the findings were used to develop a capacity development programme/matrix to close up the gaps in terms of knowledge, training and research and to better inform and facilitate dialogue and policy development with decision makers. It also constitutes an opportunity to showcase the achievements of champions or new voices in different land related issues : youth, education, trainings, gender, normative frameworks, institutional cooperation, and new topical areas such as pastoral rights or HLP, etc.

The capacity development masterclass shared best practices and areas for collaboration to close the capacity development gaps in the land governance space by listening to opportunities for cross-country cooperation and supporting infrastructure for capacity development in the Arab region. By sharing information and perspectives on capacity and needs assessment for Middle East Countries, complementary to the NEGLA North scoping study, organizations and stakeholders can identify areas to complement each other's work and leverage existing structures.

The masterclass showed that capacity needs in Arab region have similarities and differences across countries, disciplines, demography, and organizations/institutions. It was important to identify areas where individuals, groups, and institutions can present different aspects of land governance and support sustainable development and achievements over time. The session featured presentations from different profile of speakers and how their multi-disciplinary, varied and multi-levels interventions are shaping the Arab land governance space.

**2. Summary of the content presented**

**Ms. Ombretta Tempra**

In her presentation, the speaker shared the vision and long-term commitment of UNHabitat and GLTN to the capacity development needs of the Arab region. They are building strong support structures on the ground via individual champions and organizations to lead the land sector discussion and create the enabling environment for land-themed interventions. To achieve this, it is imperative to receive support from donors and other funding initiatives as UNhabitat and GLTN continue to play coordinator and convener roles.

GLTN and UNHabitat hope to institutionalize land governance work into regional and national institutions, which are key for sustainability. Due to their ongoing initiatives, they are closing knowledge gaps and collating information to make informed decisions for the Arab world.

The presenter concluded by reflecting on the journey so far, the accelerated pace in action, and identifiable results, it is important to sustain this momentum. However, organizations must support one another by embracing healthy competition and complement each other's work which encourages cross-collaboration. We all have our respective tools, strengths, and roles in achieving land governance, especially as all partners have an extensive presence in the region that must be harnessed. On this note, we should continue to build partnerships, encourage state apparatus and decision-makers to take on leadership roles within the land space, create space for open dialogues. In fact, in the framework of the GLTN Arab Land Action Plan, the number of partnerships rose already from 5 to 50 within the last two years.

**Prof. Doaa M.El-Sherif**

The speaker provided a review of the ongoing capacity development initiatives for land Governance in the Arab Region. The presented capacity development activities complement the scoping study carried out by the Network of Excellence for Land Governance in Africa for the North Africa region (NELGA NA). The presented initiative identified the areas of work that focused on Middle East and Gulf countries which were not covered by the NELGA North Africa scoping study. In carrying out this research, they build capacity on gender-responsive land tools and good land governance approaches in the region. The activity run by UTI on behalf of GLTN also established a research innovation fund and will be converting key land-related literature into Arabic to enrich the land governance pool of material for easy access and establishing an e-library. It is expected that this research will build on the expertise of existing networks in the region like NELGA NA and introduce innovative research that supports the land governance space in the region.

**Mr. Jean-Maurice Durand**

FAO works at the forefront of capacity development initiatives with an extensive e-platform for continued learning for harmonized understanding and application of land governance principles. FAO thrives on creating a holistic arena for intense conversations on land governance. By introducing online courses on land tenure systems, including the VGGT, they have raised awareness on responsible governance of tenure and improved various groups' capacity for knowledge exchange. Fostering and developing partnerships, communities of practice, multi-stakeholder platforms, etc., is key for achieving the objectives contained in VGGT principles. He also pointed out that the VGGT and all VGGT technical guides are as well translated into Arabic.

FAO has produced technical guidelines on land tenure to serve as guiding principles for mainstreaming in different countries and currently developing two more guides on integrating the VGGT to land degradation and neutrality. These guidelines are available to everyone to be used for capacity development and protect and recognize land rights. However, it is important to contextualize these technical guidelines to country-specific requirements and involve participatory approach in designing capacity development interventions.

**Mr. Rabie Wahba**

The Arab region is considered a new region for the International Land Coalition (ILC) and will be expanding its network in the region with the expectations for growth of its members from the region within three years.

To support capacity development in the Arab region, in an innovative move, the ILC will hold the first National Engagement Strategy (NES) in Jordan as a framework and platform for open yet strategic discussion to move land issues in the Arab region. ILC advocacy leveraged on platforms such as the Global Land Forum in Jordan (2022) and other global advocacy spaces to discuss land-themed food security issues, community rights, etc. They will rely on agents of change such as civil society groups to enhance inclusive democratic space, improving the land governance space in the region. For the Arab region, ILC intends to work with National Organization Committees to deploy NES while supporting the capacity needs for women's land rights through the development of more affiliates in the region. Mr. Wahba concluded by calling on participants to contribute to ILC's Arab Action Plan found on their site.

**Prof. Abd-Alla Gad**

Prof Gad presentation emphasized the critical role of ICT and how it can empower local communities. He called on member states to use remote sensing techniques and upstream systems and scientific research, enabling sustainable development and encouraging technology transfer. He identified digital mapping tools for data collation, retention, and actualization. He emphasized the importance of storing data in digital formats as such technology transfer is crucial for the Arab regions, especially as the region is going through an information-gathering stage. Using these digital tools and platforms can interpret data faster for public use. Member states have to build their capacity to effectively use digital technology to access data, especially as geospatial technology is getting more popular in capturing land data for visualization and analysis for informed decisions that maximize land resources. Though there are challenges in deploying capacity-building efforts for digital data structures and processes, he encouraged increased collective coordination, cooperation, and integration among stakeholders for national, regional, and international levels.

**Mr. Innocent Antoine Houedji**

The youth are the future of the region. It is important to support inclusive training for all young people to close capacity gaps. These skills present an opportunity that ensures young people have the requisite skills sets to engage and enter government and the land governance space to ensure its sustainable development. The land is an important source of livelihood for many in the Arab region. But not everyone has the resources to receive formal education in land governance. Providing quality hands-on training in land governance provides all land users with easy knowledge. Young people are interested in sharing knowledge and are committed to playing their role in the land governance space for the Arab regions. It is important to develop innovative approaches to reach the most vulnerable young people who contribute to and benefit from training and become change agents. Though Africa as a continent is rich in knowledge resources, it is hoped that there will be an opportunity for young people to exchange between Africa and Arab countries and build on collective results that amplify youth voices at Arab land engagements.

**Prof. Moha El-Ayachi** recalled the NELGA framework Network that is composed of an African network of more than 50 universities and research institutions. He confirmed what an integrated capacity development system cannot be fully achieved without partnerships and collaborative work with different profile of land

stakeholder's in North Africa and the Arab region. He pointed out that NELGA Africa offers its advisory capacities (in terms of curriculum development, training, applied research, and interdisciplinary education) to accompany and share its acquired experience and expertise with other universities, research centers and land stakeholders in the Arab region. He asserted that a process of knowledge exchange and cooperation is being initiated among many institutions including Lebanese University, TUM and GLTN. He calls for a more important use of the African Journal on Land Policy and Geospatial sciences to fill up knowledge gaps and address land challenges by linking land governance to broader development issues such youth, gender, human rights, land planning, digitalization and SDGs etc.

He clarified that NELGA North Africa analyzed the existing needs and capacities of land governance stakeholders. However, in spite of the progress made at country levels, different various capacity development deficits still persist at the individual, organizational and societal levels that make altogether the cooperation arrangements and the network remain unstable and needs to develop sustainable strategy to survive longer and achieve strategic results. He pointed out that the needs and gaps analysis as well as the recommendations of the regional scoping study help design and implement the capacity development strategy and programme in North Africa, which further requires sounding out the potential of other projects and actors to fill up the identified gaps and developing strong partnerships with land actors which would help the Network sustain its activities and contribute to competency development in land governance with the aim to create linkages between science and policy development and better accompany land reforms in North Africa and the Arab region.

### 3. Conclusion emerged proposals and recommendations (including Willi introduction and closing remarks)

**Mr. Willi Zimmermann** congratulated the efforts that have been made and what has been achieved in the last few years since planting the seedling of the Arab Land Initiative (ALI) five years ago during a round table World Bank Land and Poverty conference. The momentum and dynamics generated is indeed impressive. We got started by a handful of dedicated partners and individuals. ALI is accepted by governments. The first Arab Land Conference was organized in Dubai. In almost two years, the region shows significant strides in closing land-related knowledge and trainings and research gaps. Organizations like FAO, NELGA, UNHabitat and GLTN, ILC have deployed significant resources to identify land related data and systems gaps and carry out inclusive, interdisciplinary and participatory approaches to close these gaps in alignment with the existing regional and international normative frameworks, principles and values. This has raised the profile of land governance in the region and created a dynamic and an active enabling environment for Capacity development in education, research, training, learning, and action;

He highlighted that a real breakthrough in capacity development was generated by three pillars:

- the first Arab Land Conference (ALC) 2018 in Dubai setting priority in capacity development
- the establishment of NELGA NA land-hub 2017/18 and
- the GLTN Arab action plan (supported by BMZ) developed in cooperation with all known potential partners (about 20 by the time) as reference group during a workshop in Beirut 2018

He emphasized that all research to be made and all Expert Group Meetings must be developed and organized by professional individuals and groups in the Arab region, from the region and not from outside.

Other main observations of the Master Class speakers include :

- Closing the land-related knowledge and research gaps in Arab region at the individual, organizational and societal levels;
- Capacity development infrastructure is generating an enabling environment for learning and action
- The inspiring power of networking and sharing of information and data encourage cross-collaboration and co-creation. As individuals, groups, and organizations piggyback on others' research and create an enabling land governance space, it shows an integrated public interest for the Arab region. It is important to support the different outcomes from the region and build on these results to bridge capacity needs. This harmonizes complementary goals for the mutual gain of the Arab region;
- Two back to back masterclasses CD 1 and CD 3 are sisters and brothers with similar but complementary goal, oriented towards mutual enrichment and adding value. Hence, All good practices and lessons shared must be put together in one comprehensive but coordinated approach to ensure knowledge transfer in the region. Twinning arrangements, networking, normative frameworks, programmes, champions and collaborative work can build a solid cooperation framework for an enabling environment for capacity and competency development and complement all efforts for the growth of the region and for the achievement of harmonized vision of land governance in North Africa and the Arab region; and
- ICT is important, but capturing experience from the ground including indigenous knowledge should not be left behind. The increasing rate of women in current land-related education, research, and action (CSO's) is fastest growing in the Arab region globally. The Arab region shows the biggest increase worldwide even though it had to get started from a lower rate.