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The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

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The Voluntary Guidelines

Introduce the Voluntary Guidelines – What are they?

How did they come about?

Why they are important?

What do they contain?

How will they be implemented?

Voluntary Guidelines – What are they?

Adopted by FAO Council in June, 2012 - The first international agreed-upon principles and guidelines for governing tenure and property rights related to land, fisheries, and forests

- Promoting secure tenure rights and equitable access to natural resources
- Setting out principles and internationally accepted standards
- The VGs are voluntary

The result of extensive consultations and negotiations involving governments, civil society, and the private sector

Voluntary Guidelines - How they came about

From 2009: 10 regional consultations, one private sector consultation, 4 civil society negotiations, organized by FAO

2011-2012: Zero and first drafts negotiated by members of the OEWG in Rome (96 member countries and over 30 civil society organizations)

Negotiated among members of an Open Ended Working Group of the Committee on World Food Security, chaired by the U.S. Government (represented by the Chief of the LTPR Division, USAID)

Voluntary Guidelines -Why are they important?

- Reflect principles and practices agreed upon by UN member countries and civil society, despite wide and often conflicting views on tenure security and land rights
- VG negotiations allowed for greater civil society than ever before
- Provide a framework for governments intent on developing and implementing policies and laws regarding tenure governance that contribute to national food security

The Voluntary Guidelines – What they contain

- **General Governance**

Rights and Responsibilities; Policy, Legal and Organizational Frameworks; Delivery of Services

- **Legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights and duties**

Safeguards; Publically-owned or Controlled Resources; Indigenous Peoples; Informal and Customary Systems

- **Transfers and other changes to tenure rights and duties**

Market Transactions; Investments; Consolidation and Other Readjustment Approaches; Restitution; Redistribution; Expropriation

Voluntary Guidelines - What they contain

- **Administration of tenure**
Records; Valuation; Taxation; Spatial Planning; Dispute Resolution; Transboundary Matters
- **Responses to climate change and emergencies** *Climate Change; Natural Disasters; Conflicts*
- **Promotion, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation**

Voluntary Guidelines - Implementation

- G8 adopts the VGs and “promises” to fund implementation
- B20 is also trying to get out ahead
- USG is already working on many aspects of the VGs, and might pilot some additional work in the New Alliance countries
- FAO is attempting to set up a facility which could be accessed by countries and/or civil society to small funding to address VGs
- USAID and a number of bilaterals are working to coordinate a response

For more information

- <http://usaidlandtenure.net/projects/voluntary-guidelines>
- <http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/voluntary-guidelines/en/>

THANK YOU