

FIG-World Bank Declaration on Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration

There is an urgent need to build cost-effective and sustainable systems that identify the way land is occupied and used and accordingly provide for secure land rights. When considering the resources and capacities required for building such systems in less developed countries, the concepts of mature, sophisticated systems as predominantly used in developed countries may well be seen as the end target, but not as the point of entry. When assessing technology and investment choices, the focus should be on a “fit-for-purpose approach” that will meet the needs of society today and that can be incrementally improved over time.

A fit-for-purpose approach includes the following elements:

- ✓ **Flexible** in the spatial data capture approaches to provide for varying use and occupation.
- ✓ **Inclusive** in scope to cover all tenure and all land.
- ✓ **Participatory** in approach to data capture and use to ensure community support.
- ✓ **Affordable** for the government to establish and operate, and for society to use.
- ✓ **Reliable** in terms of information that is authoritative and up-to-date.
- ✓ **Attainable** to establish the system within a short timeframe and within available resources.
- ✓ **Upgradeable** with regard to incremental improvement over time in response to social and legal needs and emerging economic opportunities.

A country’s legal and institutional framework must be revised to apply the elements of the fit-for-purpose approach. This means that the fit-for-purpose approach must be enshrined in law and that the information be made accessible to all users.

A fit-for-purpose approach will ensure that appropriate land administration systems are built within a relatively short time frame and affordable costs. The systems allow for incremental updating and upgrading. This approach will facilitate economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability to be better supported, pursued and achieved.

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