



Food and Agriculture Organization  
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Governance  
of Tenure

Gender Aspects of the Voluntary Guidelines on the  
**Responsible Governance  
of Tenure of Land,  
Fisheries and Forests**  
in the Context of National Food Security

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## Introduction

*- Why women's access to land is important*

- The agricultural sector is underperforming. In part, because of unequal access to land.
- Access to land is a basic requirement for farming.
- The lack of gender equality imposes costs on the agricultural sector, food security, economic growth and the social welfare.
- Therefore, ensuring equal access to land is crucial for agricultural development and food security.



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2



## The Voluntary Guidelines

### - Gender aspects I

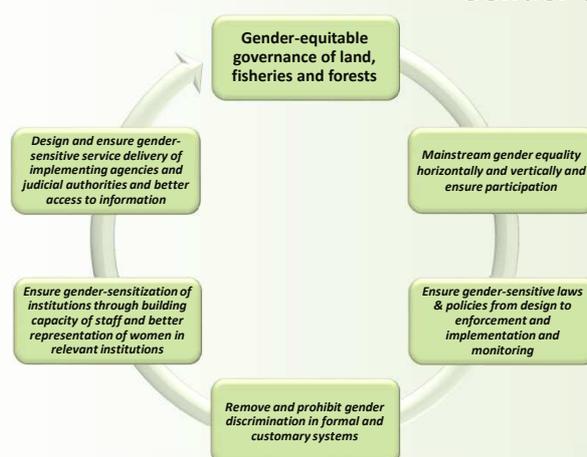
The Voluntary Guidelines:

- emphasize the needs of improving women's access to land.
- encourage States to take actions on ensuring this and to have a proactive role in promoting it.
- set out principles, recommendations and internationally accepted practices on how gender equality can be improved in both formal and customary systems.



## The Voluntary Guidelines

### - Gender aspects II





## The Voluntary Guidelines

### - Gender aspects III

**“Gender equality:** ensure the equal right of women and men to the enjoyment of all human rights, while acknowledging differences between women and men and taking specific measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality when necessary. States should ensure that women and girls have equal tenure rights and access to land, fisheries and forests independent of their civil and marital status.”

*(Source: Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, Principle 3.B.4.)*



## The Voluntary Guidelines

### - Gender aspects IV

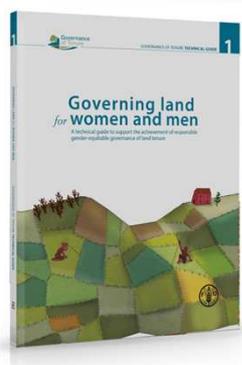
“States should consider the particular obstacles faced by women and girls with regard to tenure and associated tenure rights and take measures to ensure that legal and policy frameworks provide adequate protection for women and that laws that recognize women’s tenure rights are implemented and enforced. [...] States should develop relevant policies, laws and procedures through participatory processes involving all affected parties, ensuring that both men and women are included from the outset.”

*(Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, from paragraphs 5.4 and 5.5)*



## Technical Guide

### - *Governing land for women and men*



The technical guide:

- aims to assist implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines.
- focuses on equity and on how land tenure can be governed in ways that address the different needs and priorities of women and men.
- moves towards the mainstreaming of gender issues.
- provides advice on mechanisms, strategies and actions.

## Technical guide

### - *Content*

#### 1 Policy-making

Building gender-equitable participation into land policymaking processes

#### 2 Legal issues

Legal pluralism, legal drafting, access to justice, land dispute resolution, legal support

#### 3 Institutions

Gender-equitable participation and representation in the institutions of land tenure governance

#### 4 Technical issues

Gender equity in land administration activities, technologies and systems, and women's participation in land administration

#### 5 Getting the message across

Communication strategies and methods to support responsible gender-equitable land tenure governance



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Thank you for your attention!

