



THE WORLD BANK

## Annual Bank Conference on Land Policy and Administration

**GOV6: Building Capacity for Land Policy Analysis:  
Moving Towards South-South Collaboration**

**Tuesday, April 27, 2010 | 10:30-12:00PM | MC2-800**

**Session notes prepared by Daniel Gustafson**

Comments by discussant, Tania Pickardt:

All of the topics were very relevant. Specific comments for the presenters include:

On the topic of mainstreaming land issues into other CAADP processes, one vehicle that might be helpful in this regard could be the use of “land rights observatories” as outlined by Hubert Ouedraogo. Making the link between AU land policy guidelines and CAADP process is indeed a very important suggestion. Other initiatives should also be linked, including i) the *Voluntary Guidelines for Good Governance of Land and Natural Resources*, coordinated by FAO and ii) the *Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment that Respects Rights, Livelihoods and Resources*, promoted by the World Bank, IFAD, FAO and UNCTAD.

On capacity development, it is important to recognize that it is not an easy topic and is in fact a highly complicated one. There has been a great deal of investment in the past in capacity development that had little or no impact. One reason for this is that students are often taken out of their work environment to study and when they go back they become frustrated with the lack of progress and results and move on. Securing the necessary impact from capacity development requires more thought and things need to change if we are to avoid the problems of past experience.

It is important to build on what is already there, as Mr. Rukuni remarked, and not blindly copy from other countries. This includes building on traditional land management systems. Ghana, Namibia and Botswana all have good experience to share in this regard.

The comments and questions from participants included the following:

The experiences of capacity building at the Masters level for example that were given by the speakers are good but the requirements of all the countries that are reforming land laws and implementing other reforms are enormous, and probably require something like 1,000 or 2,000 trained professionals. How to mobilize systematic capacity development for these challenges on the necessary scale? We need five or six programs in Africa of sufficient scope and scale. How to establish and implement this level of effort?

While it is important not simply to Westernize, it is also important not simply to Easternize either.

Governments need solid policy advice now on how to approach large agricultural investment deals and other land issues. Investors need advice now, not some time into the future when capacity has been developed.

It is important to link continental initiatives (in Africa) to regional economic bodies and from there to national policies and implementation.

Who will drive reform forward? This is very difficult in many countries as the institutions that should be driving reform are in need of reform themselves. Furthermore, the individuals who should be driving government reform often depend on government salaries for their livelihoods. How to reconcile these tensions?

The number of policy initiatives underway in Africa makes policy coherence increasingly difficult. It is hard to keep track of everything and make the appropriate linkages. This also extends to donor coordination and harmonization but with ever more policies and policy processes and ever more partners, how can coherence be maintained?

Capacity development is of course critical, but governments also need to put their budgetary money where their mouths are. Many capacity development initiatives are funded by donors, but how can we get national governments to fund implementation? Donors are often sceptical of African expertise and want to supply their own. Furthermore, capacity development takes time and there is a tendency to become frustrated and disillusioned. One way out of this dilemma is to target parliamentary committees for education and awareness on these land issues and advocate for adequate budgetary resources.

Political good will will always be a critical element in the policy reform process.