

WBLPC G08 session: Transforming Land Rights and Climate Justice through Women-led Renegotiated Social Contract

“The Quezon City Framework for Developing a Women-Led New Social Contract to Enhance Land Rights and Climate Justice.”

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ANGOC



HUAIROU COMMISSION
Women, Homes & Community



GLTN
GLOBAL LAND TOOL NETWORK



UN-HABITAT

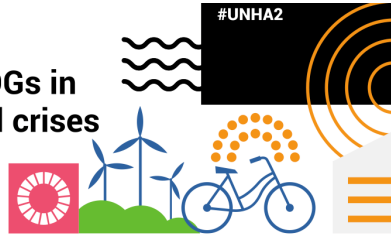


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Side Event 10

How to develop a multi-stakeholder social contract for effective delivery of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs

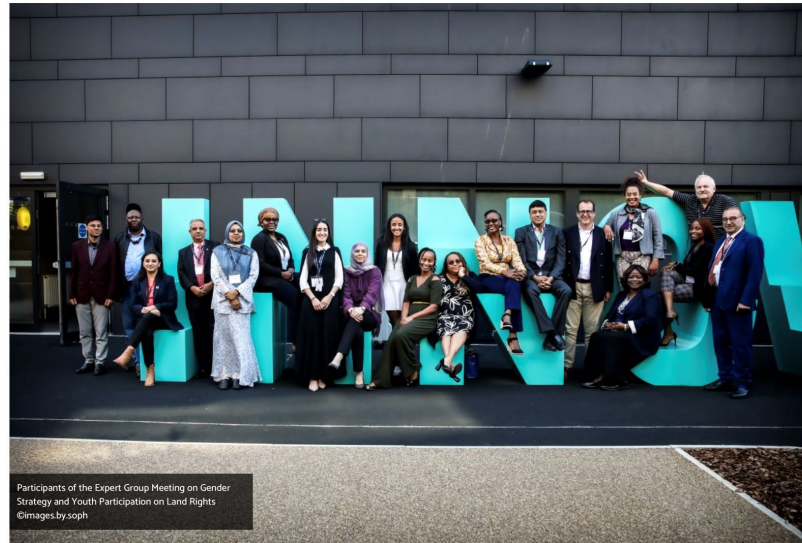
Monday, 5 June 2023, 18:15 – 19:15

Conference Room 7



Expert Group Meeting: Gender Strategy
and Youth Participation on Land Rights,
15-17 June 2023, London, UK

329 Views 5 Min Read



Participants of the Expert Group Meeting on Gender Strategy and Youth Participation on Land Rights ©images.by.soph



Dhaka Declaration:
*Mainstreaming land rights in the
narrative of climate change*

10-11 October 2023 | Six Seasons Hotel
Dhaka, Bangladesh

We are from grassroots and local communities, civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, international organizations, and a cross-section of the citizenry from twenty-one countries¹ who have participated in the conference on *Mainstreaming land rights in the narrative of climate change: views from the ground*, held on 10-11 October 2023, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Transforming Land Rights
and Climate Justice through
a Women-led Renegotiated
New Social Contract**

An Expert Group Meeting Summary Report





Framework Structure

- **Preamble**
- **Part A: Context** (Agenda, Purpose, Audience, Women-led, Standards, and Scope)
- **Part B: Approach** (Impetus, Normative Basis, Principles, Objectives, Defining Priorities, and Tools)
- **Part C: Partnerships** (Co-creation, Self-organizing, Primary Actors, Groupings, Trust, Governance, and Capacity).
- **Part D: Implementation** (Entry-points, Reporting, Outcomes or Processes, Duration, Monitoring, Data, Resourcing, Disputes and Support)

The Quezon City Framework for Developing a Women-Led New Social Contract to Enhance Land Rights and Climate Justice

The following framework was developed at a two-day multi-stakeholder expert group meeting on “Transforming land rights and climate justice through a women-led renegotiated new social contract” on 29th February and 1st March 2024 in Quezon City, the Philippines. The meeting was attended by representatives of civil society, NGO coalitions, grassroots’ women, youth rights and support groups, professionals, researchers, urban development representatives, human rights advocates, and intergovernmental organizations. They collectively work on housing, land and property rights, women and girls’ rights, community empowerment, urban and rural development, climate action, sustainable cities and communities, and human rights at the local, national, regional, and global level.

The Framework is based on prior conference conclusions in Africa, Asia, and Europe, existing research, case studies, ongoing multi-stakeholder initiatives, and inputs from the experience of diverse partners in championing women’s land rights and community empowerment in the context of climate change. The meeting was co-organized by the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), Huairou Commission (HC), University of East London (UEL), Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), with inputs from dozens of experts and practitioners.

Part A: Context

1. **Agenda:** As acknowledged in multiple reports, instruments, and policy documents, the current climate crisis is exacerbated by global injustices and obstacles to women’s land rights, and substantially due to the lack of land, housing and property rights of marginalized communities, women, and girls. As recognized in the UN-Habitat Assembly event on “Developing a New Social Contract” (2023), East London Consensus on Gender and Youth Land Rights (2023), and the Dhaka Declaration on “Mainstreaming land rights in the narrative of climate change” (2023): lack of secure land rights means that women and girls face extreme vulnerability due to discriminatory traditions aggravated by the impact of climate change, as they are forced to settle in areas that are fragile and disaster-prone; it inhibits their ability to recover from impacts of climatic events; it restricts their capacity to engage in climate adaptation and mitigation which protect and sustain their lives and livelihoods; it deters them from implementing sustainable land use and governance practices; it severely limits their decision-making, and investments that ensure their survival and resilience; disqualifying them from government compensation for loss and damage, extension services, and resettlement support.

2. **Purpose:** A social contract is a general agreement between diverse partners to recognize each other’s rights and responsibilities with details on how to collectively achieve shared objectives and outcomes. The purpose of this framework is to bring together best practices, research, and experiences of diverse stakeholders in addressing land rights, climate justice, and connected priorities. This framework offers a generic and systemic mechanism for easy development through step-by-step arrangement, implementation, and monitoring. The framework is not prescriptive but merely provides indicative issues or actions to be considered and adapted to a specific context or objectives. The framework is intended to facilitate stakeholders’ developing their own social contracts rather than using a prototype shape or form. At its ambitious best, this framework is intended to help formulate mutual rights and responsibilities, with clarified expectations and milestones.
3. **Audience:** This framework is intended for stakeholders who would like to initiate discussion and planning towards developing a new social contract suited to their needs. While there may be legal, political, and technical aspects of the final social contract, this framework provides the process and structure within which specific requirements may be incorporated. In addition to supporting the primary negotiators, in the form of a checklist, it is also intended for a wider audience for advocacy, strategy, fundraising, and monitoring.
4. **Women-led:** While this framework’s main processes are general and could apply to all types of social contract, this document focuses on women-led initiatives since there is a gap. Women and girls in this document are recognized as diverse, intersectional, and multi-sectoral groups, though attention is given to grassroots women and indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) who are key actors but often ignored. Women’s leadership on climate change and land rights is well-acknowledged and intrinsically important but does not exclude co-leadership by men and is not an effort to substitute or pre-select primary actors who are chosen through self-organization or their respective mandates.
5. **Standards:** This framework is not a standalone document and needs to be aligned with national policy, regional and global minimal standards, and regulations. The terminology used in this framework therefore has generalized meaning as found in other relevant instruments and policy documents.
6. **Scope:** There is no one-size-fits-all for a social contract. There could be general or specific social contracts that depend on context. It is up to the primary actors to decide on the nature and scope of their social contract and its content. These social contracts could be at the local, national, regional, or global level, and involve different types of partners and focus on particular thematic issues. Therefore, there can be a number of social contracts some of which could overlap with each other and respond to multiple aspects.

Part B: Approach

7. **Impetus:** Though social contracts have been formally and informally negotiated over time, the UN Secretary General's report, Our Common Agenda (2021) with its 12 commitments, including to "place women and girls at the center," and subsequent dialogues relating to the UN's New Social Contract provides the backdrop of this process, noting its diverse historical, political, and philosophical foundations. Women's land rights have been eroded by multiple, overlapping challenges including COVID-19, conflict, and climate change.
8. **Normative basis:** The UN Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, international human rights instruments and system, existing global instruments, and commitments on climate change including the Kyoto Protocol, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Agreement, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage among others reiterate the commitments of States and all stakeholders towards supporting empowerment of women and girls through equitable development and climate action. Of particular note are the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 22 and 23, UNCBD COP15 Decisions 8 and 11, UNCCD Decisions 3 and 27, UNCCD Gender Action Plan, and UNFCCC Decisions 1, 20 and 24. In addition, national policies, indigenous knowledge, and community perspectives drive the land rights and climate justice agenda. The new social contract does not diminish existing development, climate, or human rights, but merely serves as an additional framework to support women-led initiatives in these areas.
9. **Principles:** A new social contract should be founded on shared human rights principles and values. This may include being pro-poor, gender-responsive, age-sensitive, non-discriminatory. It promotes gender equality, social justice, human dignity, cultural diversity, sustainable development, reciprocity, and solidarity. A new social contract should seek to build community trust, resilience, dialogue and participation, multi-stakeholder coordination, transparency, accountability, and ensure self-organizing, participatory co-creation, and mutual benefit for all stakeholders. The new social contract should also help develop a shared understanding and practical pathways towards ensuring the best outcomes for people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnerships. It is underpinned by health and wellbeing, universal education, safety and security, and land rights for all.
10. **Objectives:** The specific objectives of a social contract may vary but stakeholders are invited to consider the following in developing a new social contract on land rights and climate justice, emerging from the Dhaka Declaration:
 - a) Amplifying the voices of women and girls, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in decision-making processes relating to land rights and climate justice.
 - b) Ensuring that land governance, land reform, and equitable access to land, water, and natural resources are the building blocks for climate resilience.
 - c) Recognizing and protecting indigenous peoples and local communities' access to land and culture, supporting customary use, management, and governance of land and natural resources.
 - d) Addressing gender discriminatory laws, policies, and practices that hinder equal land rights for women and girls.
 - e) Ensuring full involvement of all stakeholders, particularly women and girls from communities most vulnerable to climate change in formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policy instruments for land-based climate change adaptation and mitigation.
 - f) Adopting open data principles and standards, including adhering to FAIR and CARE principles when publishing land governance and climate change data.
 - g) Developing new normative arrangement to respect, protect and enforce the land rights of displaced persons especially vulnerable women and girls.
 - h) Allocating adequate funding for grassroots women through community-informed approaches to loss and damage, protection, and compensation.
 - i) Generating an enabling environment through which women's voices including grassroots and minority women is reflected in priorities, needs, and leadership and can be effective.
 - j) The purpose of multi-stakeholder engagement should be to address gaps through the spirit of solidarity and mutual interests, particularly ensuring information flows and technical skills for full participation of women in land rights and climate justice.
 - k) To build an effective new social contract for the implementation and monitoring of continuous progress on land rights and climate justice.
11. **Defining priorities:** Priorities are to be developed by stakeholders themselves through inclusive and participatory processes as appropriate to the context and subject matter. Such priority actions form the core of the social contract, and are not merely descriptive but are linked to agreed outcomes. As the climate crisis has multiple overlapping causes, effects, and solutions, priorities should address socio-historical injustices, economic, cultural, and local context, and respect indigenous knowledge. Priorities should align with existing standards, approaches, norms, actions, and frameworks.

12. **Tools:** A new social contract needs to be supported by existing and new gender- and climate responsive land tools. These should build upon existing GLTN tools such as the Continuum of Land Rights, Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM), Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC), Youth and Land Responsiveness Criteria (YLRC), Framework for Costing and Financing Land Administration Services (CoFLAS), and Tenure Responsive Land Use Planning (TR-LUP), and generic tools such as participatory budgeting, community mapping which need to be adapted to the specific needs and demands of climate action.

Part C: Partnerships

13. **Co-creation:** The power and effectiveness of the social contract rests on the legitimacy of the agreement through shared ownership of the framework. Therefore, the process of developing a new social contract has to be inclusive, transparent, and reflective of the authentic voices and experiences of all relevant stakeholders, especially grassroots women, girls, and marginalized communities. Co-creation of the new social contract is a pre-requisite. The social contract has to speak the language of the people, be attentive to accessible terminologies, and simplify technical/scientific jargon.

14. **Self-organizing:** The social contract should ensure effective participation and representation of the core stakeholder groups at all levels and all stages of development, implementation, and monitoring. In order to avoid tokenism, each identified stakeholder group should be given adequate space and support to find its own nominee chosen to the extent possible by the relevant constituency group through its own process and deliberations. The link between the member of the stakeholder steering committee and the broader constituencies should take place through regularized reporting and validation including critical inputs or dissent of the nominee or the governance committee. Guidelines need to be developed on stakeholder participation and engagement.

15. **Primary actors:** The definition of primary actors depends on the nature and scope of objectives and priorities set out in the new social contract. These will ideally include: (a) grassroots women; (b) civil society; (c) local and national government; (d) businesses; (e) professionals; and (f) researchers. These six categories are widely acknowledged as key players having distinctive mandates and bringing particular resources and expertise.

16. **Groupings:** Alongside primary actors are various other categories of stakeholders who should include as applicable in the social contract dialogue. These include major groups and other stakeholders are recognized as consisting of 18 groups including the nine major groups that were formalized by Agenda 21 at the Earth Summit in 1992: (i) Women; (ii) Children and Youth; (iii) Indigenous People; (iv) Non-Governmental Organizations (also known as civil society organizations); (v) Local Authorities (currently referred to as local and regional governments); (vi) Workers and Trade Unions; (vii) Business and Industry; (viii) Scientific and Technological Community (the group also includes academia and researchers); and (ix) Farmers. Nine stakeholder groups were recognized by the Habitat Agenda, adopted in 1996, at the second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and by the New Urban Agenda, adopted in 2016 at Habitat III, consisting of: (x) Foundations and Philanthropists; (xi) Parliamentarians; (xii) Professional Organizations; (xiii) Persons with Disabilities (xiv) Older Persons; (xv) Media; (xvi) Grassroots and Informal Sector Organizations; (xvii) Migrants and Refugees; and, (xviii) Volunteer Organizations. These identified groupings have been officially recognized by the UN as essential stakeholders. Other occupational groupings may be included as relevant such as organizations of farmers and small-scale producers, fisherfolk, forest users, and pastoralists.

17. **Trust:** The ethos of the multi-stakeholder consultation and involvement should be based on mutual respect, dignity, and trust. All involved stakeholders are therefore expected to conduct themselves in a manner that foster inter-dependence and solidarity, which are imperative when dealing with complex and competing perspectives, and often uneven power dynamics. Complaints about abuse of power or intimidation should be brought before the governance committee.

18. **Governance:** In order to facilitate the smooth processes from development to implementation and monitoring, a formal committee which carries out essential coordination and governance functions should be set up. The social contract should explicitly mention the criteria of membership, qualifications, role, and responsibilities of members, as well as the modalities and meeting of the group. To ensure accountability and transparency, all reporting and meeting minutes should be made public and external participants be allowed to attend meetings where possible.

19. **Capacity:** For the success of partnerships, developing leadership and skills of all stakeholders is required, including creating spaces and opportunities for minority women and girls. Creating an enabling environment through which women's and girls' voices can effectively be heard and experiences embedded within a new social contract is imperative.

Part D: Implementation

20. **Entry-points:** The social contract should identify entry points and specific interventions for land and climate action for each partner/stakeholder at the local, national, and global level as applicable. These should be related to the objectives and aspirations of each stakeholder and practical steps to fulfil the objectives of the new social contract. These could include strategic planning, mobilizing of people/resources, fundraising, advocacy, technical inputs, data collection, and/or reporting.
21. **Reporting:** The social contract should facilitate the sharing of information within and across stakeholder groups to familiarize them with the reporting systems on climate change at the global level, including through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) reports. Access to data and information is vital to creating awareness and follow-up. Climate and land policy reforms and gender equality guarantees should be co-developed and implemented by all stakeholders.
22. **Outcomes or Processes:** A social contract should be designed so that it has tangible outcomes or processes, indicators, set roles and responsibilities. Specific times where performance is expected should be indicated. This should include short, medium, and long-term targets and objectives which are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound. Objectives should be designed at the beginning of the process of developing the new social contract and progress reviewed at regular intervals by primary actors and the governance committee. Certain objectives, such as behaviour change or structural improvements, may be long-term and not immediately tangible and their monitoring and evaluation should be considered appropriately.
23. **Duration:** A social contract can be created for a specific duration relating to defined objectives with set milestones. However, it should not be seen as simply a project document that elapses but something that is dynamic, improving and evolving, reflecting changing aspirations, knowledge, and practices of primary actors involved in the development and implementation process. These emerge connected to the thematic and substantive focus.
24. **Monitoring:** The social contract should also have a part dedicated to monitoring and evaluation. This is essential for ensuring effectiveness, transparency, accountability and learning through the social contract. The monitoring process should be based on pre-identified targets and indicators, and should be designed appropriately.
25. **Data:** The social contract has to be developed and implemented through an evidence-based approach. Where appropriate and available, there is need to access and support collection of sex and age disaggregated data, participatory mapping, and data collection process, utilize technology and innovative methods, and engaging with National Statistics Offices and agencies to enable collection of good quality and relevant data. Data collection and storage should follow open data principles and standards, including adhering to FAIR and CARE principles when publishing this data.
26. **Resourcing:** Commitments and funding through governments and multilateral institutions for addressing climate action should be distributed equitably and reach local communities and grassroots' women and girls. Community-identified priorities and resilience should be the focus in addressing loss and damage due to climate change. Access to climate funds for women and girls should be strengthened. Additionally, ensuring effective solutions through systems such as carbon credits to compensate (or offset) emissions should be transparent and community focused. The new social contract should be fully resourced, incorporating commitments and mechanisms at the global, national, and local level.
27. **Disputes:** The social contract should ensure clear roles and responsibilities for the primary actors involved. This includes in the development phase (i.e., writing, drafting), the operationalization of the agreement, and in implementation, monitoring, and disputes. The social contract should outline what happens when one or more stakeholders contests the performance/compliance by other stakeholders. It should promote negotiation and arbitration as the preferred settlement of disputes. However, formal dispute resolution mechanisms may be adopted.
28. **Support:** The framework presents a basic outline for the complex task of developing a new social contract for varied needs. The framework needs further work, evidence, guidelines, piloting, promotion, advocacy, and mainstreaming into projects, programs, and policies. In order to provide further consultations and improvement, following the EGM in Quezon City, Philippines, individuals from the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), Huairou Commission (HC), University of East London (UEL), Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), Arab Union of Surveyors (AUS), Habitat for Humanity (HfHI), and OXFAM, will comprise a new social contract framework group (i.e., NSC framework group) and will invite others include experts and representatives from other constituencies or groupings. The NSC framework group will develop its terms of reference and work to facilitate its normative, technical, and political contributions. The Noon Centre for Equality and Diversity at the University of East London will serve as the secretariat of this group in the initial period.

Empowering Youth for Effective Participation in Health Decision-Making in Newham

Chief Investigator(s):
[Mr Mohammed Siraj Sait](#)

Start Date:
May 2023

Co-investigators:
[Dr Richard Buscombe](#), [Dr Shampa Roy-Mukherjee](#), [Miss Adeola Osunbade](#), [Miss Najera Begum](#), [Mr James Kaguima](#), [Mr Paul Brown](#), [Mrs Kelley Webb-Martin](#), [Ms Mavis Wenham](#), [Ms Meena Bhagat](#), [Ms Sule Kangulec](#), [Professor Winston Morgan](#)

End Date:
May 2024

Contracting Organisation:
[London Borough of Newham Children's Health Service 0-19](#)



***“Transforming Land Rights and Climate Justice
through a Women-led Renegotiated New Social Contract”***

Nathaniel Don Marquez

Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC)

Click to edit Date

Limited understanding & response

- **Climate change affects everyone, but hits the poorest and those without secure land rights the hardest.** At the bottom of this ladder are women and girls.
- **Climate change discussions has remained under the exclusive realm of scientists and governments.**
- **In the aftermath of disasters, the poor with no security of land tenure have the least capacity to recover and rebuild.**
- **Poor people are often left out of climate change discussions, treated as victims rather than active responders.** Planning for mitigation and responses are often top-down. In the planning of adaptation and mitigation programs, those without legal property rights are often left out of the discussions.
- **Land is both a source and a sink if greenhouse gases.** Thus the way in which land is allocated, used, managed and governed impacts significantly in overall GHG emissions and climate change.

Limited understanding & response

- **However, there is still limited (yet growing) understanding and response in addressing the nexus of the impacts of climate change, social and policy responses, and need for land tenure security.**
- Governments may take measures that prevent affected families from returning, including establishing prohibited zones. However, the “prohibited areas” may be allowed for investments.
- **Securing land tenure rights for women and girls is key for their social and economic well-being and in climate change adaptation and improving resilience.** When land rights are placed in the name of women, this enhances their tenure security and allows more benefits to flow to their children and dependents.
- While there has been laws and policies that advance women’s land rights, the implementation remains weak.

New social contract and land tools

- **Need to look at climate change issues from the grassroots, from the lens of women and girls, and using a rights-based framework.**
- **A new social contract is necessary to facilitate climate justice for women and girls using their women-land rights experiences and initiatives for inclusive and embedded multi-stakeholder partnerships.**
- **Land tools are essential in implementing this social contract.**
- Established in 2006, the **Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)** is a global, multistakeholder alliance of more than 85 international partners committed to increasing access to land and tenure security for all, with a strong focus on the poor and women.
- GLTN and partners have developed land tools addressing various themes: 1) access to land and tenure security, 2) land management and planning, 3) land administration and information, 4) land based financing, 5) land policy and legislation, and 6) cross-cutting themes [land-gender, cc, conflicts, food security]

New social contract and land tools

- Some examples of GLTN tools: Gender Evaluation Criteria, Social Tenure Domain Model, Tenure Responsive Land Use Planning
- **However, these tools need to be reviewed and perhaps retrofitted so that added protection of communities and increased resilience against the negative impact of climate change.**
 - > **Risks assessments and disaster planning to include land tenure dimension and land rights of women and girls**
 - > **Planning to include defining livelihood activities that are essential for communities to protect and defend their rights to ;land**
 - > **Documenting how land rights of women have improved capacities of families and communities to implement resilient actions**