Analysis of the Voluntary Guidelines and ALPFG

Strengthening complementaries to improve land governance
Focus of ILC analysis

• What is their legal status (binding/nonbinding)
• What strategic role can they play
• Contradictions and complementarities
• Common messages
• How can we take them forward?
Key points

- Legal status:
  - both non-binding
  - international vs regional
  - Intergovernmental ... FAO / AU Summit

- Roles
  - best practices, standards in land governance
    - F&G focus on policy development; formulation, implementation, M&E
    - VGGT focus on policy content, best practice, rights
Common messages

- Respect for human rights
- Promote equitable access to land
- Accessible land governance systems
- Promote gender equality
- Recognise the different values of land
- Promote sustainability
- Recognise customary and informal rights
- Decentralisation to improve accountability
- Consultation and participation
- Transparent and accountable land governance
- Redistribution
- Rights of existing land users
Integrating the VGGT F&G

- International / regional frameworks deployed in tandem in many contexts: women’s rights, human rights etc. Increasing reference to regional (esp social, legal vs economic)
- Land governance norms “harder” to get adopted ... vested interests.
- Practical implications of different institutional frameworks and processes for promotion and dissemination?
- Limited audience in closed group ... no mass dissemination (eg. MDGs) ... lack of ambition? political backing? weak land sector?
- CSOs ... investment in knowledge to use the Guidelines, ability to do own local critical analysis of both, tendency to engage internationally not nationally.
• Both broad guidelines, reference points, but as tools of policy influencing only as useful as local knowledge... data, processes, consultations etc.
• Realities of domestic uptake of regional/international laws = reflection of power of gov’t interlocutors (FAO vs WB vs LPI) and gov’t clarity on land policy.
• African gov’t position on international engagement and laws: ritual or wholehearted?
• Recommendation: better research and understanding on the dynamics of policy formulation and implementation