REPORT OF THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH LAND GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE IN AFRICA (CIGOFA 2)

With support of:
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INTRODUCTION

The United Nations, the World Bank, the European Union, the French Development Agency, the African Union, and several other international and regional organizations are through their policies, now engaged in a fierce fight against underdevelopment in some countries of the world, and especially in Africa. We are fast approaching the horizon of the United Nations Agenda for the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-Agenda 2030). Despite the many salutary efforts of each party, the achievements remain minimal in the face of pending challenges in Africa. How then can we lend a hand to the various initiatives in this area by encouraging the involvement of the most valid and able layer of the African population in the development process of Africa? It is the reflection on this issue that prompted the youth of YILAA to initiate a statutory conference called the International Youth Land Governance Conference in Africa (CIGOFA).

From the 13th to the 16th of October 2021 took place in a conference room of the Noah Garden hotel in Cotonou, the Second International Youth Land Governance Conference in Africa (CIGOFA 2021). This conference was co-organized by Youth Initiative for Land in Africa (YILAA), The African Union and the Government of Benin, with the accompaniment and support of many partners including: GIZ,
NELGA, UN-Habitat, CADASTA, OXFAM, PRINDEX, GLOBAL LAND ALLIANCE, CICODEV, Landesa, International Land Coalition, Land portal, COLANDEF, Land Portal etc.

About five hundred people from across Africa attended this conference. Some focal points and members of YILAA were able to travel to Benin to participate face-to-face. The countries represented are Benin, Senegal, Burkina-Faso, Kenya, and Nigeria. Representatives of the government of Benin, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (01), the Ministry of Planning and Development (01) the National Employment Promotion Agency (01) and the Ministry of Justice represented by the Civil Society Promotion Center (01) were also present at the event.

In addition, several other focal points and members of YILAA, the partners of YILAA as well as all the other speakers invited for the occasion but who were not able to come also took part in the exchanges via zoom. Discussions were translated over time, both in French (for French speakers), in English (for English speakers), and in Arabic (for those who speak Arabic). No participant in CIGOFA 2021 had difficulty following or addressing others.

Young people, men and women from around the world gathered for the occasion around the theme: Why Youth Land Governance is key in tackling Climate Change and economic injustice? The conference took place over four days, which gave time to address different aspects and dimensions of the theme in order to shed as much light as possible on the issue. Indeed, this major theme has been broken down into four sub-themes, at the rate of one discussion per day, namely:

- Institutional relationship on Youth, Land Governance & Climate Change and Adaptation;
- What is the role of Traditional Authorities in Youth Land tenure practices and Climate Change?
- Rural Woman Land Rights, Climate Change and Training;
• Youth and Land Opportunities.

These sub-themes are in turn broken down into communication subjects and interventions are organized accordingly.

CIGOFA 2021 was not a series of presentations; it was a meeting of interactive exchanges between young people, state authorities, traditional authorities, experts and technicians, whether in land law, youth or in the field of agriculture.
Conference proceedings

The conference took place over four consecutive days, each day featuring a different program with different speakers.

I. FIRST DAY

**SUB-THEME:** Institutional relationship on Youth, Land Governance & Climate Change and Adaptation
MODERATORS:

- Shadrack Omondi, Land expert, IGAD
- Faith Alubbe, CEO of KLA, Kenya Land Alliance

1.1. Opening ceremony
The first day of the Second International Youth Land Governance Conference focuses on Institutional relationships on Youth, Land Governance and Climate Change and Adaptation.

It started with the welcome address by Mr. Innocent Antoine HOUEDJI, Coordinator of YILAA, and also had an opening address by Mr. Oumar Sylla, Acting General Director of UN-Habitat Africa (Kenya). Following it, several interventions by institutions took place:

- African Union, represented by Dr. Edeme Janet, Head, Rural Economy Division, Dept. of Rural, Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

- International Land Coalition, represented by Mr. Audace Kubwimana, Africa Coordinator, Nairobi Kenya;

- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Represented by Mr. Marcos Montoiro,
- Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) represented by Mrs. Esther Obaikol, Land Governance Expert & Coordinator land governance unit, Djibouti

- African Union Development Agency represented by Teko Nhlapo

- CICODEV, represented by Mr. AMADOU KANOUTE, its Director

- Prindex, represented by Dr. Malcolm Childress, its Director

- UEMOA Rural Land Observatory, represented by Dr. Ibrahima KA, Coordinator of the Observatory.

- Ministry of Development and Coordination of Governmental Action, represented by the General Directorate of Coordination and Monitoring of SDGs, Mr. TODEGNON Toussaint, from Benin

1.2. SUMMARY OF THE FIRST DAY

After the various institutional interventions, we can retain:

a) Strengthen Land Governance in Africa along the Urban and Rural Continuum: Youth Perspectives;

b) Strengthen the inclusion of youth in the African Union land governance strategy process;

c) African youth are the foundation of Africa's development and Cicodev is helping to work with YILAA;

d) Prindex commends the initiative and hopes to strengthen
data collection on youth access to land in Africa;
e) The UEMOA Rural Land Observatory presented the importance and role of youth in the agriculture and rural land tenure process and wishes to collaborate on the edition of newsletters focused on youth access to land and agriculture;
f) Finally, the General Directorate of Coordination and Monitoring of the SDGs of Benin promises to strengthen its collaboration with YILAA.
II. SECOND DAY

**Sub-theme**: What is the role of Traditional Authorities in Youth Land tenure practices and Climate Change?
**Moderators**

- **Kate Chibwana**, Facilitator-National Land Stakeholders-Malawi
- **Pranab Ranjan Choudhury**, Founder and Coordinator of the Center for Land Governance in India

**2.1. Opening**

*Welcome from the YILAA coordinator*

The «Tengsoaba» among the Mossis is the Chief or master of land. This function, which only men and natives can exercise, is due to the general recognition of the land rights of the first occupants, namely the ancestors. In general, the land chief, the eldest of the lineage, ensures lineage management of the land which guarantees the preservation and transfer of the land heritage from one generation to the next.

This function covers two dimensions: a religious and mythical dimension, concerning links with ancestors and peace, and a judicial dimension, in support of conflicts and the distribution of property/land ownership. In addition, the powers of the Chiefs of Land, as masters of land management, transcend the borders of the village region. Thus, the land or lineage chief as agent of the community or of the beneficiaries - and not the owner of the land
- is responsible for the following tasks:

- Perform the agrarian rites that ensure peace and productivity for the village community;

- Ensure the sustainable and equitable management of the common land heritage, in particular land reserves and the distribution of land reserves among the lineages that are members of the community;

- Allocate land to “foreigners”;

- Monitor the proper use of natural resources;

- Arbitrate the settlement of land disputes within the community or land disputes with neighboring villages.

Despite this fairly clear role, young people from African communities still suffer to access land or sometimes are denied access. This state of affairs then calls out to YILAA. This is the whole issue of the theme of this day.

So, the youth will interact with the traditional leaders and see what the roles of the parties are and share experiences of good land practices that can facilitate the access of young people and women to land through the support of traditional authorities.

From now on, we would like to adopt the slogan «Traditional Authority, a Support Agent for Youth Access to Land in Africa»

So, I wish everyone a very good and fruitful discussion.

2.2. Essentials of communications

2.2.1. 1. Youth and Public Mobilization: Good Land Tenure for Youth Access to Land and the role of Traditional Authorities (by His Majesty MFUMU NTINU)

The speaker began by thanking YILAA, the African Union, and the young people participating in the conference as well as all the partners
who support the cause of young people in Africa. He also thanked the conference organizers for the honor given to him to speak as a communicator. According to the speaker, we cannot talk about land governance without first tying the land to its holders and custodians as well as to the populations and communities who exploit it. In Africa, land management is closely related to our traditions and customs. Failure to recognize this truth is what leads some African states to lose their identity, thus giving way to the emergence of completely acculturated and stateless generations. It is now time for African countries to realize that the development of Africa must be based on the ways and customs of Africa. In most of our countries, our traditions are abandoned in favor of rules which are not quite adapted to our contexts, and that we call by abuse Positive Right as if to say that our traditions are negative. Nevertheless, the speaker takes this opportunity to salute the efforts already made. The reforms undertaken by some African states have the merit of having brought to light the complex issue of land governance. Some countries for example, have integrated into their policies the issue of the importance of traditional authorities and have gone far as to give them official status. The various states, organizations and individuals of all skill categories, who have been addressing the issue for years, have brought to humanity enormous capital that can enrich many land governance strategies around the world and particularly in Africa. For His Majesty MFUMU, the importance of the role of traditional authorities in land governance in Africa no longer needs to be demonstrated. Moreover, he thinks that land management with regard to these authorities is twofold:

On the social level, traditional and customary authority is committed for the stability of the communities under its tutelage and the maintenance of their vital spaces clearly defined in terms of scope and rights.

Economically, land constitutes important capital for any natural or legal person, individual or community, capable of exploiting it to produce goods of all kinds.

Traditional authorities are closer to their communities and often hold
large areas of land. It therefore seems imperative to involve them in decision-making processes with regard to young people and land. It is also imperative that all arrangements be made to ensure that traditions and African customs are perpetuated and that injustices against traditional authorities are corrected. In reality, not involving communities and their leaders in land management is often the source of land conflicts, which sometimes even goes as far as armed conflicts. Speaking on behalf of all traditional authorities in Africa, the communicator asserted that traditional African authorities will not sit back until all the States have not recognized to the traditional chiefs their official status. He ends his speech by suggesting that Africa has always been ruled by wisdom and that it is wisdom that inspires intelligence. But before giving the floor back, he reassures the young people of the availability of traditional authorities to accompany them and facilitate their access to land.
2.2.2. Youth engagement in REDD+ and the fight against Climate Change (Pacifique KANYIKI)

The Democratic Republic of the Congo covers an area of 234 million hectares. Land is available and waiting to be exploited to tackle climate change. But instead, there is more and more worsening of the situation. Efforts are being made to make land governance for young people a means of combating the perverse effects of climate change. However, the results remain unsatisfactory. The youth are not sufficiently engaged in the process. He urges now to raise awareness among young people of the importance of their commitment to Redd+.

The goal of REDD+ is to fight global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by deforestation and forest degradation. This will help preserve and restore biodiversity while improving agricultural production conditions. The use of charcoal or firewood contributes significantly to environmental degradation and to the intensification of the effects of climate change. This is why it is necessary to innovate and abandon the habits that are not profitable to us. The most popular solution today is the improved fireplace.

2.2.3. Information Governance for Youth Access to Land in Africa (Dr Moustapha Diop)

Dr Diop Moustapha, Prindex Africa Region Director, began his communication by referring to the recent Facebook bug to show the importance of access to information. Not having access to information
can lead to consequences which can be serious.

According to his presentation, there are around 580 million farmers in Saharan Africa with less than 2 hectares for each of most of them. Today, according to statistics, Africa needs to increase its production by 60% in the agricultural sector. But, with climate change, the variation in precipitation in some countries will have a major impact on production. How can we then meet the challenge in such conditions? Access to information is essential. Access to climate data services will allow farmers to be aware of the seasons so they can plan their crops based on the information they have. Normally, before even embarking on agricultural activities, it is essential to ensure access to climate information. He closed his speech by making a few recommendations, namely:

- Collect and make available climate information that can help farmers control their production;
- Provide young people with capacity building services so that they can disseminate information;
- Carry out political mobilization with the participation of young people to ensure that the objectives are achieved;
- Etc.

2.2.4. Youth as Drivers of Local Actions on Sustainable Land Reforms and Intercommunity Learning (Desmond ALUGNOA)

The youth must be placed at the center of any reform in land tenure.
Young people have potential and it is important to involve them in order to be able to take advantage of this enormous potential. It is no longer a secret that Africa's population is largely young. We therefore must understand that we simply cannot go towards development without involving the youth. Young people must be brought together around very specific objectives and given the means to induce development.

2.2.5. Youth Access to Land in Uganda (Frances Birungi - UCOBAC)

As in most African countries, Uganda's population is young. This young population has potential, but does not take advantage of it. Unemployment is alarming in the country. The other problem is that young Ugandans are not invested enough in agriculture. But we all know the reason why this is not the case. Difficulties in accessing land remain a real problem. Despite the potential of these young people, despite their skills, they cannot create value because they do not have access to land. Access to land is limited, especially for young girls. It should be noted that in most African countries, it is customary laws that prevail. However, these laws greatly marginalize young people and women. Youth participation in land management is very limited, either in land access processes or at the administrative level. There are no opportunities in the country
for young people to take advantage of. There is not even information on the matter, and the existing ones do not include young people. His recommendations are as follows:

- Invest a lot in research to get information on the difficulties of young people and adopt the right policies; create good strategies to favor young people;
- Promote the rights of young people and work for their implementation;
- Take into account the difference among young people, because all young people are not the same and therefore do not have the same problems or even the same needs;
- Make young people active actors for change;
- Work to encourage young people to use land efficiently;
- Make information available.

2.2.6. Why Youth Land Governance is key in Land Restoration? (Siyabulela Sokomani)

The speaker began by discussing the problem of the rural exodus of young people. Young people want to migrate to cities or even other countries to look for themselves, without knowing the associated risks with this adventure. But the reason behind this is unemployment. According to statistics, more than 60% of young people are unemployed. And we can say that the difficulties of access to land play a role.

Good youth land governance must be promoted. Opportunities must be created in rural areas to enable the youth to become major actors in
land management, thus, limiting the rural exodus. African youth must stay in Africa to develop the continent and not go to develop other continents. We have to help them. Land must be made available and young people must be encouraged to get involved in land-related activities.

Ecological restoration also requires youth access to land. Indeed, when access to land is facilitated, ecological restoration becomes possible. The youth can also work for the restoration of African lands. They are not just ploughmen. We must ensure that the land benefits not only us, but also the entire community. “For me, I see the land as a commodity that brings value to me and my whole family” he said.

2.2.7. Impact of Climate Change on Youth Accessing Land in Namibia (Regina Kaholongo)

Some observations in the country

- In the north: a lot of precipitation
- In the south: severe lack of precipitation

It is predicted that the situation will only worsen in the future.

We are faced with a total lack of data on access to land, which makes things a lot more difficult.

In the north, where there is heavy rainfall (which can also sometimes be harmful), young people find it difficult to access land. And in the south, the lack of rainfall makes land almost useless.

But nothing is being done to solve the problem; nothing is being done to help the youth. There is no concrete action favoring young people.
Recommendations

• Collection of data and all necessary information for the profitable use of land;
• Establishment of projects in the field of land tenure;
• Training of young people on ways of producing, given the difficulties observed in the region, due to climate change;
• Revision of various policies (policy on climate change for example) to introduce provisions relating to young people's access to land;
• Inclusion or participation of young people in decision-making.

2.2.8. Taking into account the concerns of young people at the national level (Wilfried MONGAZI)

The problem of youth access to land is of great concern in Africa. It is urgent that we deal with this issue today. Some countries have started to understand the importance of young people in the implementation of development actions. Their concerns must also be taken into account. In Benin, for example, strategies are being put in place to collect the opinions of young people across the country. This will give a fairly precise idea of the situation and points out where to make corrections. This is what must be done in all countries. It is imperative to include the concept of youth-sensitive land governance in national strategies and policies. Each state must be aware of this. Mr. MONGAZI invites young Africans to fight to make their rights known and to have their place in decision-making bodies.
2.3. SUMMARY OF THE SECOND DAY

Africa is rich in arable land. The African population is predominantly young. Young Africans have a strong desire for entrepreneurship in agriculture. But a problem of access to land arises. The youth, whatever their commitment, whatever their availability, do not have access to the only resource essential to the realization of their various projects: land. The problem is even more worrying nowadays as it is the source of many plagues that befall our world. Poverty, food insecurity, climate change, economic injustice, etc. are all, in some way, related to land. So, these young people who nevertheless have the potential to induce development in their countries and furthermore on the continent, find themselves both unemployed and confronted with the social and financial difficulties that arise from their situation.

It is therefore the moment to locate responsibilities so that everyone knows what their role is in this process which aims to make youth land governance a pillar of development. Traditional authorities have an important role to play; elders should help young people access land; young people must reaffirm their commitment; state authorities must work to integrate young people into decision-making bodies; land must be made available to native people first if not exclusively; information relating to land must be collected and made available to young people, trainings should be given; in short, there is still some way to go.

Youth land governance is also the most effective way to fight climate change. Indeed, promoting youth land governance can lead to the restoration of both land and ecosystems. We must therefore think about guiding young people in this direction.
III. Third Day

Sub-theme: Rural Woman Land Rights, Climate Change and Training
Moderators:

- Grace ANANDA, Gender and Women’s Land Rights Expert
- Mounia TAGMA, Africa and Middle East Advisor-Affordable housing Institute

3.1. Opening

After sending their greetings to all the participants, the moderators immediately gave the floor to the Oxfam representative and then to the WILDAF West Africa Director to say their words of welcome to the participants. We recall that this third day of the conference coincides with the day of the rural woman.

3.2. Essentials of Communications

3.2.1. Rural Women and Food Issues (Peter Kamalingin)

Rural women are the most exposed to food insecurity in Africa. It is them who must work the land, market products in the markets, etc. to be able to provide for themselves and their children. But, in a context where access to land is almost impossible, especially for women, it must be understood that these women face enormous difficulties. In addition, climate related issues and the Covid 19 pandemic aggravate...
the situation. Our food systems are disrupted. It is therefore high time that women’s access to land be taken into account. Is this a necessity today? In fact, the African Union has understood this and has planned that 30% of the land should go to women.

As recommendations, we must guarantee respect for women’s rights; put in place policies to regulate the market; work on data collection and work in collaboration with governments as well as stakeholders.

3.2.2. Women and Land in West Africa (Kafui KUWONU)

In West Africa, around 60% of the population is under 30 with at least 49.9% young girls. This is a potential that Africa should take advantage of. We have to see things on the bright side. We have resources; we must use them for development. This day is more than symbolic and strategic to discuss with rural women on their access to land. Women must be valued because they have value. Let us not forget: «No women, No food». As recommendations, we must think about the creation of employment for young people and the inclusion of youth and women in decision-making processes in land matters.

3.2.3. The Impact of Injustice on Youth Land Governance in Senegal (Ameth Diallo)

Economic injustice can be defined as an inequitable redistribution of economic benefits resulting from official policies. In our context, injustice has a socio-economic or socio-cultural character. Applied to land, injustice can result from poor management, poor redistribution of land resources. In Africa and in Senegal in particular, it is young
people and women who are the most victims of this injustice. But the responsibility for this injustice is as much attributable to the state as to the young people themselves because of their lack of commitment and initiatives in the field of land governance.

It should be noted that efforts have been made in this area. The Emerging Senegal Plan for 2035 had been in place since 2015, which takes into account the interests of the youth. Young people have the opportunity to bring land disputes to the Supreme Court of Senegal when they feel they have been wronged. There is also the Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Orientation Law (LOASP) of 2004 which can be considered as a breakthrough. However, the implementing decrees have not yet been issued for some of its provisions. Anyway, the actions taken so far remain insufficient in the face of the challenges ahead. Young people must engage in concrete actions of land governance. Therefore, it would be necessary to proceed to:

- The socio-economic reintegration of youth in their land rights;
- The collection and making available land information on time;
- Capacity building;
- The institution of land reforms;
- The establishment of adequate judicial mechanisms;
- Etc.
3.2.4. YILAA Training Center, What role in Youth Land Governance? (Innocent Antoine HOUEDJI)

The YILAA Training Center is an e-learning platform for training young people in the areas of land governance. The goal is to strengthen the capacities of young people and fill in the gaps that exist in the field. These young people who are perhaps defenders of youth rights, activists for development through land governance, farmers, etc. will be, in a way, focal points for the sharing and extension of good practices in their different countries and regions. They will be able to share the knowledge and experiences acquired during the trainings with others and if possible in their local languages in order to have more impact. It is therefore a program that significantly impacts youth land governance in Africa. By 2022, we plan to launch the Massive online and opened courses (Mooc). It is therefore an important job that we are undertaking with Mister Rik Wouter and Daniel Roberge.

3.2.5. Role of Queen Mothers in Youth Land Access in Africa: The Case of Ghana (Nana AMA)

In Ghana, queen mothers are a part of society which can be likened to kings in other countries and even in Ghana. They also have a role to play in the access of youth to land. But, since they are women, they encounter a lot of problems doing what is their
responsibility. The issue of queen mothers is a legal issue related to land. Queen mothers must be empowered to help young people gain access to land. It is not just the youth who can help. Women are capable of it too, and even more queen mothers.

Moreover, actions are being taken to guarantee this. For example, an approved platform which is intended to strengthen the capacities of queen mothers already exists. The ultimate goal is that queen mothers are included in policies and involved in decision-making processes.

3.2.6. State of Play on the Progress of the SDGs Related to Land and Climate Change in Benin (Pierre HODONOU)

In Benin, reforms have been introduced by the government to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) related to land. Among others:

- The land and state code has been revised;
- Access to rural land is supervised;
- Acquisition grants have gone from thirty to ten years;
- There is law guaranteeing gender equality;
- The law on climate change exists;
- 7474 farmers were trained and reinforced in 2020;
- 5,424 farmers were supported by the SNU;

However, there are still major challenges to tackle. In Benin, 0.4% of adults own land and 1.5% of land is secure, meaning have a land title.
There is a huge need for data collection to strengthen the analysis of the SDGs relating to land in Benin.

3.2.7. What are the Agricultural Opportunities for the Benefit of Young People for the Fight against Climate Change in Benin? (Thérèse ZOUNON)

Climate change is a global challenge and to face it, each country must develop its own measures. The causes of these changes in Benin are: on the one hand the combustion of coal, oil and gas, which produces carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide; and on the other hand the disappearance of forests (deforestation) and therefore of trees which, in normal times, help to regulate the climate by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere. This is manifested by the delay in the start of the rainy season, the shortening of the rainy season, the concentration of rains over a short period of time leading to flooding, excessive heat, strong winds, rise in sea level, the shift in the sowing period over the last fifteen years, the wilting of crops during the rainy season, more drought pockets and the increase in temperatures. All of this is seriously affecting the economy of the country which is based mainly on agriculture.

To solve the problem and allow young farmers to carry out their activities in peace, several actions have been undertaken. For example, the National Plan for Agricultural Investments and Food and Nutritional Security (PNIASAN) includes a priority line of action entitled: Strengthening resilience in the face of climate change and improving the food and nutritional security of vulnerable populations. This axis
has four components including:

1. Agricultural innovations for the benefit of men and women for resilience in the face of climate change and its mitigation;
2. Sustainable management of land and aquatic ecosystems;
3. Securing and managing access to land;
4. Improving food and nutritional security of the most vulnerable populations.

In addition, several commitments have been signed by the State, strategies and policies have been adopted and actions implemented in the same direction. Today, opportunities exist for the benefit of young people and the authorities are ready to support them in their various projects.

3.3. SUMMARY OF THE THIRD DAY

Young people are the next generation of tomorrow. It is therefore important to start by teaching them good practices in land governance. We must also create opportunities to encourage young people to get involved in the agricultural sector. There is a need to consolidate existing partnerships and forge new ones for the benefit of young Africans. Capacity building for young people is an obligation. It would also be useful to create and make available scholarships for the benefit of young people. Universities have a role to play here. This is why partnerships are a key point from this perspective. Also, for more communication in this area, it is necessary to think about training journalists on issues of land governance.
IV. DAY FOUR

Sub-theme: Youth and Land Opportunities
Moderators

- Hillary K'Odieny, Community Land Rights Protection Program Officer- Kenya Land Alliance
- Dr Abderrahim Idrais, Expert in land governance - Morocco

Opening

This day is the fourth and the last of CIGOFA 2021. After welcoming words from Grace ANANDA and Juliet Tsuma, the day was declared open and left to the moderators’ conduct.

4.1. Essentials of communications

4.1.1. The Perverse Effects of Massive Land Security on the Protection of the Environment and Gambling (Songui Ouattara)

Land tenure security is the act of protecting a portion of land from insecurity, monopolization or any litigation that may arise. Generally, security is materialized by an act called land title which makes the applicant the exclusive owner of the land in question. This is a good thing, because it saves landowners from unnecessary conflict. However, the more people secure their land, the more problematic young people's access to land becomes. Massive land tenure security is not without consequences.

Today, if we should count, an insignificant number of young people
across the African continent own land. Our struggle is aimed at giving these young people access to land, at least to become farmers (without the need to spend money for it). But, if all land should be secured, the difficulties will only increase tenfold.

Land tenure security is certainly to be enhanced, but at the same time, compromises must be found so as not to jeopardize the chance of future generations to have access to land. It may be necessary to regulate it so as not to suffer the consequences of massive land tenure security.


Some statistical data to start:

In 2018, Africa's population was 1.3 billion, or 17% of the world's population. About 70% of this (African) population is young, and more than 50% of these young people are girls. In Burkina Faso in particular, the population mostly young, exceeds 20 million, with 52% women and 48% men. It should also be noted that 73.7% of the Burkinabe population live in rural areas. In this country, agriculture occupies 48% of the GDP.

Despite the difficulties in accessing land, young people and Burkinabe women devote themselves fully to agricultural activities. In some regions, land is granted to these young people and women, and the income is more or less shared at the end of cultivation. But sometimes this results in indebtedness and even over-indebtedness of the operators, as they often make loans for their activities.
When the first case of Covid19 in the country occurred on March 9, 2020, followed by proliferation of the virus and lockdown, all activities were hit hard. State services have become inaccessible and activities, be it cultivation, processing, or even marketing, have all been frozen.

Covid19 is a disease that has hit the whole world and has left quite visible traces in Africa to the great disadvantage of young people and African women. The authorities must think of young people and women to help improve their conditions.

4.1.3. Opportunities for Responsible Agricultural Investments for Youth in Africa (Francisco Carranza)

In most African countries, there is the unemployment situation. There are no jobs and even those that exist are seasonal. In addition, working conditions are not the best. This is one of the reasons why young people should get involved in agriculture. Young people who are in the field must be known by the authorities who must in turn make all the arrangements to support them.

One thing we must know is that agriculture is a sector which provides many jobs. If young farmers succeed, they will need manpower to help them in their activities, which will definitely help other youth in turn. Today, it is time to develop strategies to promote agricultural entrepreneurship. And this is what is already being done at FAO.
4.1.4. The actions of the ANPE in the employability of Youth in the Land and Climate Change sector in Benin (Fasting-Eve ASSOGBA DELE)

The ANPE is the National Agency for Employment Promotion in Benin. Its objective is to support young people on the one hand in finding jobs, and on the other, companies in the search for skills. The agency has a platform on which young people can register. As soon as a young person registers on the platform, he is invited for an interview, which allows the agency to know roughly what he wants, of what he is capable of, in short to establish his profile in view to better help him.

But sometimes we encounter a lot of difficulties. There are some young people who are independent job seekers, others who are semi-autonomous. They know what they are capable of and what they need. These young people just need a helping hand to be successful. By cons, there are others who do not know at all what they want. It would first be necessary to begin by reorienting them and teaching them everything. There is a serious problem of vocational guidance in our country. Sometimes it is parents who choose the field of education for their children, and in the end, they do not know why they are trained. It is imperative to correct this.

The agency does not only exist for young people who are educated. The uneducated youth also have their chance with the ANPE. Indeed, the agency has its dismemberment in all departments of Benin, and we are even planning to settle in the town halls in order to be closer to the people. And so, from time to time, we travel to the populations in the rural areas to communicate if possible in the local languages in order to reach our targets. The support we offer extends to all areas: agriculture,
livestock farming, etc. If necessary, we sometimes do individual support for job seekers who come to us. It should be noted that young people do not need to have knowledge prior to receiving the agency’s services. We are not in politics.

4.1.5. GeOsm: Opportunities for Young People in Africa (Willy Franck)

With modernization that has strongly evolved today, we have the opportunity to make information available and help development in different ways. Agriculture is the backbone sector of the economy in Africa. But climate changes have a great impact on the sector. So solutions should be found for the different issues related to the sector. And we think information is a key element in this process. Moreover, for the sole purpose of making sufficient information available to control the situation, the World Bank recently set up an operation called Open Cities Africa. This is also the goal of GeOsm.

GeOsm is a globally developed platform that exists in order to make information available and to promote exchanges between stakeholders. The platform currently takes into account 192 countries around the world. Social networks are integrated there, and it also offers users, the ability to create groups by common interests. With this platform, people with the same goals can link up to discuss.
It must be emphasized: data is everything today. No good decision can be made if decision-makers do not have concrete data, sound and reliable information. Currently, teams are mobilized on the ground with cameras, drones and all that is needed to collect information about land. Once the information collected, we have qualified personnel to treat it, do the mapping and make the information available on the platform free for all. We can even have the information on smartphones from anywhere.

In addition, it is important that mapping is up to date. This is why it is also given to the users of the platform the ability to add and update data. We believe that geographic information can play a role in land security. In short, we want to make information an important axis of land governance and Africa's development, while paying attention to not undergo the consequences of uncontrolled modernization.

4.2. SUMMARY OF THE FOURTH DAY

After the exchanges, it is necessary to remember that efforts are made in most African countries to help young people access to land as well as their activities, especially in the agricultural sector. However, the general observation is that these efforts remain insufficient. It would be necessary to think about creating more opportunities for young people. It is also the time to make information a key factor that enables youth land governance in Africa.
CONCLUSION

The conclusion of the fourth and final day of the conference is marked by the pronunciation of a few words of thanks from Grace ANANDA and the coordinator Innocent Antoine HOUEDJI.

After that, The Pr. Moha El-Ayachi, North African Coordinator delivered his closing speech by thanking all partners, participants, organizers and urged the various partners to support the initiative for a real integration of young people into land governance system, a pledge of Africa's development. It is with these words that the certificates were delivered to the participants who attended physically the conference.

It is with satisfaction notes expressed by the participants that the conference ended.

Following the work of the Conference, some lessons and major recommendations emerge, namely:
Suite aux travaux de la Conférence, il ressort quelques leçons et les grandes recommandations à savoir :

➢ LESSONS LEARNED :

1- Youth-sensitive land governance is the most effective way in tackling climate change ;

2- Traditional authorities and mother queens can play an important role in youth and women's access to land in Africa ;

3- Geographic information can play a role in securing land tenure ;

4- The context of COVID19 does not completely restrict the organization of the presidential conferences ;

5- Youth must be at the center of the action of climate and land tenure for Africa's development.

➢ RECOMMENDATIONS :

1- Strengthen institutional links relating to youth, land governance, climate change and adaptation,

2- Strengthen collaboration with governments and stakeholders in youth-sensitive land governance

3- Mobilize traditional authorities in general and queen mothers to support youth and women's access to land actions,

4- Accompany the innovative projects of young people for land, climate change and adaptation,

5- Invest in research to obtain information on good land tenure practices focused on youth and women to adapt government policies;
6- Include the concept of youth-sensitive land governance in national strategies and policies;

7- Work to better ensure respect for women's land rights;

8- Collect and make available climate and land information that can help farmers control their productions;

9- Give youth capacity building services so that they can disseminate information;

10- Establish an inclusive integrated project with high job creation rate;

11- Work on implementing scholarships for the benefit of YILAA's young members;

12- Include or involve young people in decision-making at all levels;

13- Create awareness of governmental and communal authorities to improve the conditions of youth access to land in the COVID19 context;

14- Create the repertoire of new trades and new facilities in land governance for the benefit of young people;

15- Strengthen the multi-stakeholder platform for youth-sensitive land governance in Africa;

16- Invest in the actions of sustainable development objectives (SDGs) related to youth, land and climate change;

17- Launch the Training Platform YILAA Training Center.
### ROADMAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGE</th>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>ORGANIZATIONS / STRATEGIES</th>
<th>RESOURCES / BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>February 2022</td>
<td>Capacity building for young people, women and traditional chiefdoms</td>
<td>In the current context of managing the Covid-19 pandemic, capacity building activities will be organized virtually. To do this, the various stakeholders in this activity will be invited</td>
<td>See YILAA 2022 Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>March-June 2022</td>
<td>Collecting data on youth access to land</td>
<td>Precise regions are located for the collection of land data on young people. We will work with authorities at various levels.</td>
<td>See YILAA 2022 Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jan-Dec 2022</td>
<td>Project 10 Millions of lands, 10 Millions of young people against desertification in Africa &quot;10MymiLand&quot;</td>
<td>The flagship strategy here is to prepare and launch the fundraisers and officially launch the project.</td>
<td>See YILAA 2022 Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>June-Jul 2022</td>
<td>Creation and implementation of an intergenerational dialogue platform for the benefit of young people</td>
<td>This platform will inform young people and their elders about conflict management strategies in order to reconcile forces for the development of their respective communities. This platform will see the active participation of our partners.</td>
<td>See YILAA 2022 Action Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>August 2022</td>
<td>Reinforcement of the YILAA TRAINING CENTER e-learning platform</td>
<td>Since the platform already exists, we will update the courses, recruit more competent trainers and officially launch the platform.</td>
<td>See YILAA 2022 Action Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sep 2022</td>
<td>Strengthening of the multi-actor platform on land governance responsive to young people in Africa</td>
<td>We will work to make the multi-stakeholder platform more open to different stakeholders.</td>
<td>See YILAA 2022 Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>October 2022</td>
<td>Organize CIGOFA 2022</td>
<td>We will involve our various partners and will see the possibility of organizing it in another country of the YILAA network.</td>
<td>See YILAA 2022 Action Plan</td>
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