

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND LAND GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE – CIGOFA 4



ACCELERATING YOUTH
LAND RIGHTS IN AFRICA
RECOMMENDATIONS

PREAMBLE

Whereas We, the undersigned participants of the Fourth International Youth and Land Governance Conference (CIGOFA 4) from 40 Countries of the across the globe, drawn from youth organizations, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non- Government Organisations (NGOs), traditional leaders, Indigenous communities, academia, government, and global partners, convened at Mount Meru Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania from the 20th -24th October 2024, acknowledge the following

- That the African continent faces a myriad of challenges in the administration and management of its land and natural resources, ranging from weak governance systems (or multiple unharmonized systems), outdated land policy and legal frameworks, blatant land grabbing, environmental degradation, climate crisis, urbanization/ migration pressure amongst others.
- That the African youth; a unique and unreplaceable resource of the African continent, lacks effective mechanisms to engage with statutory and customary land governance processes, and has been marginalized thus perpetuating cycles of inequality and disempowerment.
- That, even where governments have tried through policy reforms to eliminate discriminatory practises and empower the youth to enjoy their land rights, implementation of the law and other requisite policies is still a challenge.
- That the young African men and women's meaningful involvement in land governance and secure is critical to ensure the prevailing challenges can be curtailed and/or overcome.
- That Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) is critical in the acceleration of youth land rights.
- That enhanced tenure security for the youth is critical to transform agriculture, promote economic development, promote food security, curtail vulnerability, marginalization and poverty in a sustainable way towards achieving durable peace and stabilization.
- That inspite of an increased willingness demonstrated by many stakeholders at various levels and spaces to include the youth and women in land governance, there still exists a lack of actionable and durable solutions from the youth and for the youth.



GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following were the general recommendations included

- I Youth centred policy actions have to be promoted to ensure the realization ensure access to: land; financial services to acquire the land and make it productive; and technical assistance to acquire entrepreneurship skills to facilitate sustainable livelihoods. Access to these services should be an integrated package for the youth to be able to acquire land and use it to commence successful commercial agriculture and other land-based interventions. African governments should be encouraged to promote pertinent land policies and associated agrarian interventions that would accelerate youth land rights.
- II Absence of an accountable and transparent land administration and management mechanism, is amongst the key constraints to youth centred investment and effective utilization of land in Africa. In spite of the critical role secure land tenure plays in the lives of youth and women, their land rights are still largely discriminated against in customary and statutory laws. There is need to promote and advocate for women's, PWD (People with Disabilities) and other social groups involvement in land related decision-making process and leadership positions.
- III There is a need to make access to credit especially for agricultural production by the young people accessible, affordable and less demanding; this will ensure that the youth who want to be involved in agribusiness are able to access credit for small SMEs as well as working capital.
- IV There is a need to train youth on relevant and timely agricultural innovations and methods of utilizing technologies, which is very important towards imparting knowledge on agricultural entrepreneurship and encouraging them to join agribusiness. This will go a long way in helping the young people in agribusiness access market information, reduced cost of goods and services transportation.
- V Collaborative advocacy – with both State and Non-State – Actors – will ease and facilitate system changes that would influence decision-makers to adopt and effectively implement pro- youth, gender-equitable land laws, policies, strategies and practices.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

This part summarizes the succinct recommendations from the conference targeting different critical actors that can accelerate youth land in Africa

1. TO THE REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- 1.1** Foster the uptake of regional frameworks that would promote youth-centred land governance.
- 1.2** Recognize the value of the youth's contribution to tenure governance and creating of safe spaces for youth dialogues matters land.
- 1.3** Strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration for youth-sensitive land governance
- 1.4** Support and bolster capacity and knowledge for the youth to ensure effective contribution in land-related policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring.
- 1.5** Enable active youth participation in decision-making processes around land governance at regional and international levels.
- 1.6** Support youth-led initiatives aimed at securing and/or making sustainable investments on land.
- 1.7** Identify, document, promote, replicate, and or scale up youth-led initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges that exacerbate young people's vulnerability on the land such as climate change, conflicts, the shrinking of the democratic space, unsustainable food systems and unfriendly social norms, among others.

2. TO GOVERNMENTS

- 2.1** Develop and implement youth-centred land-related policy and legal frameworks, in order to mainstream youth land considerations in the multi-faceted nature of land tenure issues.
- 2.2** Create safe spaces for youth participation in land governance and promote young people's land rights.
- 2.3** Design and support the implementation of inclusive projects promoting youth-centred land governance.
- 2.4** Support active youth participation in decision-making processes around land governance at local and national levels through positive discrimination policies, which include embracing international and regional best practices.
- 2.5** Promote active participation of the youth initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges that exacerbate their vulnerability to such as climate change, conflicts, the shrinking democratic space, unsustainable food systems and unfriendly social norms.
- 2.6** Establish and strengthen youth-centred protection systems in consultation with both state and non-state actors.
- 2.7** Ensure and promote legal protection for young land rights defenders.
- 2.8** Promote, recognise and appreciate traditional land governance systems that are youth friendly.





Main

Recommendation



3. TO THE CSOS AND PEOPLES ORGANIZATIONS (POS)

- 3.1** Advocate active youth participation in land-related decision-making processes from the local, National, Regional to the international levels
- 3.2** Generate /support production of disaggregated data on youth land rights in view of informing decision-making processes and foster evidence-based strategies and meaningful engagement in programs targeting youth.
- 3.3** Generate up to date information on the status of youth land rights situation at country levels and undertake public education of relevant stakeholders on the challenges faced by the youth for secure land tenure and identify options for solution.
- 3.4** Undertake collaborative advocacy towards the enhancement of Youth-led and Youth-Centred effective contribution in land related policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring.
- 3.5** Advocate for legal protection of young land rights defenders

4. TO TRADITIONAL LEADERS/AUTHORITIES

- 4.1** Align traditional systems with youth friendly practises and norms to accelerate youth land rights in different contexts from local level.
- 4.2** Promote youth engagement in intergenerational dialogues on land and ensuring meaningful youth involvement in local decision-making processes.
- 4.3** Address youth-unfriendly social norms to foster secure land tenure for young people, including young girls.
- 4.4** Promote and recognize youth land rights in the traditional land governance systems – for example Communal land ownership for Ips and Customary Land ownership systems.



5. TO THE YOUTH OF AFRICA

- 5.1** Actively involve in policy dialogues to have impactful and meaningful engagement matters land tenure and seek to understand the roles and responsibilities of land rights and land use.
- 5.2** Build capacities to increase potential to influence decision-making processes and use land efficiently and sustainably.
- 5.3** Raise awareness on challenges facing youth in securing land tenure.
- 5.4** Produce disaggregated knowledge on the challenges and solutions for a youth-sensitive better land governance.
- 5.5** Take leadership in promoting and defending youth land rights.
- 5.6** Develop score cards / monitoring tools for monitoring progress of youth land rights.

6. TO YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR LAND IN AFRICA (YILAA) AND THE YOUTH LAND MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS PLATFORM IN AFRICA (YLMPA)

- 6.1** Build peers' capacities to increase their potential to influence decision-making processes and to use the land efficiently and sustainably.
- 6.2** Expand the requisite spaces dedicated to youth land rights to a maximum of young people willing to engage.
- 6.3** Facilitate Joint resource mobilisation initiatives to promote youth land rights across the continent.
- 6.4** Facilitate dissemination of information of partners' work to encourage sharing and learning.
- 6.5** Take leadership in promoting and defending youth land rights.
- 6.6** Develop score cards / monitoring tools for monitoring progress of youth land rights.

7. TO RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

- 7.1** Develop education curricula on land rights to ensure that young students have a good understanding of their prerogatives regarding land.
- 7.2** Support and collaborate with young researchers to promote evidence-based advocacy /research works on youth land rights.
- 7.3** Produce disaggregated and accessible knowledge on the challenges and solutions for a youth-sensitive land governance.
- 7.4** Develop youth centred repositories that store/showcase knowledge products that accelerate the actualization of youth land rights.

8. TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- 8.1** Facilitate sustainable investments which are free from land grabbing and ensure meaningful involvement of the youth into the land-based investment dialogues.
- 8.2** Facilitate open dialogues with communities, including young people for inclusive decision-making on the land-based investments in the target areas.
- 8.3** Promote transparent and accountable community benefit sharing mechanisms from the local level context.
- 8.4** Create opportunities and innovative financing frameworks which are youth friendly to facilitate access credits for land related projects.

9. TO DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- 9.1** Involving youth in land-related decision-making processes at local, national, regional, and international levels.
- 9.2** Fund projects that aim at promoting youth-centred land policies and practices in Africa, including but not limited to capacity building, data generation, advocacy, and land restoration.
- 9.3** Support governments in developing and implementing youth-friendly legal frameworks on land governance.
- 9.4** Support and promote the Youth led Land platforms for example the Youth and Land Multistakeholder Platform in Africa (YLMPA) and the International Conference on Youth and Land Governance in Africa (CIGOFA).
- 9.5** Develop instruments for funding that are more accessible to youth and youth organizations.
- 9.6** Appreciate and support context-oriented solutions to youth land related challenges.

CONCLUSION

Secure land tenure for the youth is a formidable challenge but not insurmountable. With Africa holding surplus uncultivated arable land, policy makers should be able to sustainably address the arising youth related land tenure issues. Durable sustainable solutions should be anchored by the opportunity to leverage the abundance of educated youth to modernize Africa's agriculture while also improving and establishing livelihoods for the youth. There is a need to create an enabling environment to support the requisite tenure rights for young people thus encouraging them to be able to own and manage their lands on their own as a crucial asset.





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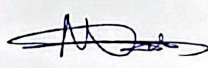


On this day, 23rd October 2024, I agree to and append my signature
to the recommendation of CIGOFA 4: The Fourth International
Youth and Land Governance Conference held at Mount Meru Hotel
in Arusha, Tanzania.

Nalegilegi Asia Tipay Pastoralist Indigenous NGLD Forum 

Paul Ole Leitura - Muhika Afrika 

Elie Charles - Intense Pictures 

Moses Vwaele 

Joshua Lema 

www.yilaa.org

| youth4landinfrica@gmail.com

Abomey-calavi, Benin, West Africa (Location)

International NGO / R / 4544 of March 14th, 2023 (Tanzania Registration)

2020/N°189/MISP/DC/SGM/DAIC/SAAP-ASSOC/SA of July, 20th, 2020 (Headquarter Registration)

Cell : +255 74 75 03 50, Arusha, Mwanza-Tanzania



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Joshua Luma



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Cathrine Mwangi
YILAA Namibia

Deodatus Mfugale
LANDESA (TZ)

Hamed Rashid
LANDESA (TZ)

John Wold Poondua
GIZ -

Simplice NUTOMBO
CONAREF/DRC

TUMAINI BHERI EJC
YILAA/DRC

YIDAMNO - ANTONIO WEELEY, JR.

Theresia Raphael
TALA

ENOCH MWITA NKAMBA

ALTER TRANSLATION



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Joshua Lauzer
-Global Communities & AYP
[Signature]

~~The~~ Suzana Tuke - KINMAPA Development Programme
→ MICHEL MOKISSET MULTI-FACETED NGO'S
CONSORTIUM *[Signature]*

OUORDU YERIMA Léa, SNV-BENIN *[Signature]*

Romuald CHIMBIRE KALIMIRA, UESIMBERETOPS ASBL
RDC *[Signature]*

Phillipe Noel Wasonga FIDIPA *[Signature]*

LOUENESS KESSY - KINMAPA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME *[Signature]*



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Name	Organization	Signature
Eza Aotaguo	GIZ Ethiopia	[Signature]
Nebiyu Etesu	GIZ Ethiopia	[Signature]
Metsanet Genene	GIZ Ethiopia	[Signature]
- Kemeria Auel	government office	[Signature]
- Shemisu Aliye	>> >>	[Signature]
- Abichu Temesgen	>> >>	[Signature]



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Zibelo Mstasse (PhD), Meru University, &
Private Consultant.

Young Surgeon
(PhD) AG
MEDESSI Rujaraba

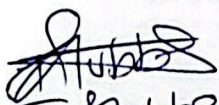
James Waswa
(Private Land Consultant)

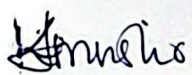


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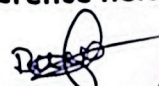
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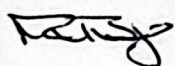

F. Nubbe
K.L.A
Kenya Land Alliance.


Khadeja Musho
Landesa Tanzania

Lilian Mache

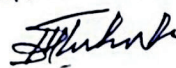
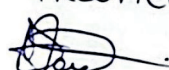
LSF


Bawili A. Daudi
Org: Farmers solidarity (Sopadas)


Zakaria Paulin
Tanzania Nature Reserves
Forum (INRF)

Bernard Bala TALA

Godfrey Massey-Landesa
Masaku Lukulu-Landesa


Doreen Fredrick Tarimo


Let's implement for the Africa we want.

