Briefing on the Urban Legislation, Land, and Governance Branch
11 May 2012
The Branch and its Objective

To support national governments, local authorities and Habitat Agenda Partners to put in place systems for improved access to land, to have enabling legislation, and have effective governance to enhance equitable sustainable urban development.

Legislation ↔ Land ↔ Governance

Legislation Unit
Urban Legislation: A Working Definition

- A set of priority legislation that enables cities to cope with rapid urbanization.
- Urban legislation may be an Act or a law enacted by national or sub-national body. It can also be a regulation, ordinance, decree, and by-law instituted by a city-council.
- The priority legislation that UN-Habitat focuses on are the ones that govern key functions of cities and local authorities such as:
  - planning, land management, local government finance, housing, basic services, infrastructure, decentralization.

Urban Legislation: the Rationale

- Legislation is a key but under-examined aspect of urban governance. In some countries, laws governing urban land use and property relations are not updated, coherent, and enforced.
- Increasing urban population requires more urban space for housing and infrastructure, services.
- Land Re-adjustment (LR), other land management tools, and appropriate legislation have a considerable potential to increase the supply of serviced land and facilitate the vertical and horizontal expansion of cities.
**Urban Legislation: UN-Habitat’s Strategy**

- Promote urban legal reforms able to achieve provision serviced land, densification, mixed use areas, and value capture mechanisms.
- Develop an Urban Legal Network and multi-year partnerships with WB and other regional banks.
- Generation of Urban Legal Knowledge (research publications, case studies, database) through pilots.
- Development of legal tools (legal framework assessment tool, legal reform impact tool).

**Urban Legislation: Urban Legal Initiative**

- Urban legal knowledge development strategy being formulated.
- An international EGM in June in Nairobi (14 lawyers and Land Readjustment specialist).
- Desk review of 14 countries legal framework using land readjustment as a lens. 4 countries selected for a detailed assessment (Angola, Colombia, India and Turkey).
- Backstopping to UN-Habitat Projects in Kisumu, Nampula/Nacala (Mozambique), Philippines, Rwanda, Egypt, and LR pilot in Colombia.
Land and Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Unit

Land and GLTN: What We Do

- Addressing a wide array of land and tenure security issues through the provision of capacity development support and technical assistance.
- Developing and implementing land tools (linking norms to operations), particularly pro-poor and gender responsive.
- Promoting land governance and the continuum of land rights.
Land and GLTN: What We Do continued.

Informal land rights

- Perceived tenure approaches
- Occupancy
- Adverse possession
- Leases

Customary

Alternatives to eviction

Group Tenure

Registered freehold

Formal land rights

Land and GLTN: How We Do It

5 track approach

1. Knowledge development and awareness
2. Tool development and piloting
3. Capacity development of national and local government counterparts and civil society
4. Partnership formation
5. Focus on strategy design and implementation for core functions – capacity development, communication, resource mobilization, partnership, and country level engagement
Land and GLTN: Highlights and Next Steps

- In Brazil, about 55,000 people from 4 slum communities will be provided security of tenure through Huairou Commission and GLTN’ work on the Gender Evaluation tool.


- Future areas include implementing the capacity development component of the African Land Policy Initiative, Youth and land, and Land indicators.
Local Government and Decentralization Unit – including Safer Cities

LG and Decentralization: What We Do

- Strengthening sub-national government institutions and the systems of urban and local governance across a range of thematic areas and contexts.
- Developing and implementing urban governance and safer cities tools and methodologies.
- Promotion of decentralization in a context-sensitive manner, multi-level governance, inter-municipal cooperation, good urban governance, and a multi-sectoral approach to urban safety.
LG and Decentralization: How We Do It

1. Knowledge development and awareness raising
2. Tool development and piloting
3. Capacity development of national and local government counterparts and civil society
4. Partnership formation

LG and Safer Cities Highlights

- Five countries currently adapting the Guidelines. Two want support to implement them.
- Decentralization country profiles for 38 countries completed with UCLG.
- 53 Cities in 24 countries have received direct technical support on urban safety through the Safer Cities Programme.
- Significant gains in strengthening of local authorities in post conflict settings.
LG and Safer Cities Next Steps

• Focus on strengthening governance for cities that are expanding and are metropolises.

• Launch the Global Network on Safer Cities.

• Youth to become a central focus in urban governance.

• Build on previous working in climate change working to develop new tools to strengthen multi-level governance for climate change adaptation and mitigation (esp. financing).

ULLG Financial Portfolio

In million USD. Total portfolio: 80 million

- Legislation: 48 (60%)
- Land and GLTN: 30 (37.5%)
- LG and Decn + SC: 2 (2.5%)
ULLG Financial Portfolio – Geographic

In million USD – all regions and global

- 29 (36%)
- 14 (18%)
- 6 (7%)
- 4 (5%)
- 27 (34%)

- Global
- Africa
- Arab States
- Latin America
- Asia

Thank you for your attention!