

CONCEPT NOTE — SIDE EVENT

People-centered land tenure and governance

Advancing UNCCD's Land Tenure Agenda: recognising people's rights for people and planet

DATE

26 August 2026

TIME

16:30 – 18:00 GMT+8

VENUE

ULAT MET-24

ABOUT THIS EVENT

This event will focus on advancing secure and equitable land tenure as a critical enabler of Land Degradation Neutrality and sustainable food systems, placing people-centred and rights-based land governance at the core of implementation efforts.

The discussion will take stock of opportunities within the Future Strategic Framework to strengthen the integration of tenure issues, including through policy development, indicators, future revisions of the Gender Action Plan, and potential intergovernmental processes.

It will highlight both formal and voluntary mechanisms for promoting tenure security, including emerging commitments under the International Land Tenure Coalition (ILTC), and examine the national institutional, coordination, and stakeholder engagement conditions required to translate commitments into action.

Through a multi-stakeholder dialogue the event will contribute to broader efforts to strengthen synergies across the Rio Conventions and mobilise support for inclusive, community-driven approaches to land governance.



FOCUS AREAS

Rights-based land governance · Land Degradation Neutrality · Future Strategic Framework · International Land Tenure Coalition · Gender Action Plan · Rio Convention synergies

Programme

MODERATORS **Beth Roberts**, Landesa and **Dr Jes Weigelt**, TMG Think Tank for Sustainability

OPENING **Constanze Neher**, Director Global Issues and Trends, Poverty and Inequality, Governance, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

PANEL I

Advancing tenure commitments beyond formal negotiations

Jesus Fernando Villegas Samanez
 Director of Climate Change Adaptation and Desertification, Ministry of Environment, Government of Peru

Dr Teshome Tamirat
 Head of Department of Forest, Ethiopian Forest Department; UNCCD National Focal Point

Sophie Worrall
 British Deputy Head of Mission to Mongolia

Marcy Vigoda
 Director, International Land Coalition

PANEL II

What next? A critical reflection

Jeff Herrick
 Independent Scientist

Ward Anseeuw
 Land Tenure Lead, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Ndeye Fatou
 Programme Manager, Regreening Africa

Chetan Kumar
 Global Head, Forest and Grassland Team, IUCN

CLOSING — **Lifeng Li**, Director, Land and Water Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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