



# GLOBAL LAND TOOL NETWORK GENDER STRATEGY (2019–2030)

*Towards Securing Women's and Girls' Land and Property Rights*

*A WORLD IN WHICH EVERYONE ENJOYS SECURE LAND RIGHTS*



**GLOBAL LAND TOOL NETWORK GENDER STRATEGY (2019–2030)**  
TOWARDS SECURING WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gender is central to Global Land Tool Network's overall Strategy for 2018–2030. Our Gender Strategy reflects and reinforces this. It focuses on securing women's and girls' land tenure, land-related resources and property rights, including housing in rural, peri-urban and urban contexts.

Improving the rights of women and girls to land is vital to overcome poverty and inequality, ensure justice and human rights, and counter trends that further undermine the rights and wellbeing of women.

Our gender strategy has four core **objectives**:

- Engender the implementation of our overall 2018–2030 Strategy to deliver gendered outcomes based on specific commitments to secure women's and girls' land tenure and property rights.
- Increase the use and institutionalization of **land tools** and approaches for gender-responsive land governance and legal frameworks strategies and programmes.
- Increase the number of women and girls whose **land tenure and property rights** are secured, regardless of tenure regimes, context or situations in each country.
- Strengthen **knowledge and capacities** for mainstreaming gender equality and human rights principles, and for monitoring progress in local, national, regional and global policy and governance processes that secure women's and girls' land, natural resources and property rights.

We will undertake the following **measures** as part of our gender strategy.

**Partnerships.** We will strengthen our innovative partnerships, as anchored in our overall mission. We connect and inspire work that secures women's and girls' land and natural resource rights. We work to integrate gender-responsive and fit-for-purpose land tools and approaches into the policies and practices of governments and related land institutions at regional and global levels. We support efforts to achieve gender equality and promoting women's and girls' rights.

**Governance.** We will embed gender further into the governance and management of GLTN. Our documents and workplans will clearly recognize and promote our network's action towards gender equality in land and related resources. We will include gender in our targets and indicators for measuring progress. For our Secretariat staff, we target 50 percent of either gender by 2023.

**Land tools.** We will continue to develop and promote gender-responsive and fit-for-purpose land tools. We will strengthen existing land tools to make them more gender-responsive, and we will promote the uptake and development of technological innovations in land administration and governance that secure women's and girls' rights.



**Country initiatives.** We will scale up country-level initiatives for sustainable gendered outcomes.

We support the development of national-level policies to secure land tenure and property rights for women and girls. We foster local and national partnerships that further this aim through the sustainable use of gender-responsive and fit-for-purpose tools. We will support efforts to introduce accelerated land reform, gender-responsive land policies and capacity development for governments and other partners.

**Other sectors.** We will strive to integrate secure land rights for women and girls and development outcomes in other key sectors.

We will raise awareness of the connections between women's land rights on one hand and economic wellbeing, agriculture and environmental conservation on the other. We will enter into collaborative projects with relevant role players and actors at global, national and local levels as part of our ongoing work in promoting tenure security for all.

**Women leaders.** We will facilitate the capacity development of women leaders, including grassroots women and young professionals, through institutional placement in our network and with our partners.

We will strive to expand the pool of women leaders, professionals from the global North and South, through targeted placements with our partners and Secretariat. We will promote an increasingly active role for women in peace and conflict-resolution processes related to land.

**Capacity development.** We will strengthen the capacity of policymakers and practitioners on women's and girls' land and property rights. We will use various approaches to foster a deeper understanding

of institutional gaps, map approaches to addressing women and girls' tenure issues, and place women's and youth issues at the centre of policy discourse and programme initiatives.

**Policy.** We will convene and facilitate our partners' access to policy and decision-making platforms.

We will press for women's voices to be heard so they can influence decisions on land governance and management, and we will promote their access to the appropriate tools for engagement.

**Advocacy.** We will mobilize and lead efforts towards joint advocacy, influencing and campaigning to secure women's and girls' land rights.

We will strengthen our engagement with policymakers to advocate for women's and girls' rights and will better link local initiatives to national processes and regional and global efforts.

**Research.** We will boost our efforts for research and knowledge management on land issues that concern women.

We will sustain and promote action research on various aspects relating to women's land rights: gaps in knowledge and practice; programming, financing and scaling up; customary tenure; conflict; urban land and property; agriculture; climate change and land degradation; and the application of land tools.

## WHY IS TENURE SECURITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IMPORTANT?

### A LACK OF WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS LEADS TO POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND VIOLENCE

Compared to men, women often have weaker tenure and housing rights – or no secure rights at all. That makes them more likely to be poor, subject to discrimination and violence, and unable to inherit land.

The feminization of poverty is in part due to a lack of land rights for women. Millions of women who live in remote rural areas and informal urban settlements are affected. Improving their rights to land helps eradicate poverty and reduce income and gender inequality.

### WEAK POLICIES AND REGULATIONS HINDER WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Laws and policies (including religious and customary laws) often fail to recognize women's and girls' land rights, and they deny them inheritance rights. In patriarchal societies, women may have weaker or no rights to land and property, or they may lose their rights if a husband or father dies. Under customary, religious, territorial or group rules, it is men who often make the important decisions: how to use the land, what to grow on it, and whether to rent it out or sell it.

Although women make up a majority of food producers and do most of the world's farm work, their rights to land have often not been given priority.

Even countries with progressive legal frameworks often fail to enforce their own laws. Corruption and compromised justice systems deny justice to women and girls.

### WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

Women's and girls' land and property rights are human rights, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international conventions including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

### WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS ARE ERODING FURTHER

Global trends such as climate change, land degradation, land-based conflicts, population growth, food insecurity, migration and rapid urbanization are increasing competition and conflict over land and other natural resources, undermining women's and girls' tenure rights even further.

### WOMEN FACE SPECIAL CHALLENGES IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS AND FRAGILE STATES

Land rights for women are even more problematic in conflict and post-conflict situations. Female refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as returnees, often face extra hurdles in securing housing, land and property rights.

Land-related documents are often lost during a conflict. The loss or lack of identification documents, marriage or death certificates also severely affects displaced women's access to land rights. Restitution of their housing, land and property rights can be very hard as land-administration processes are costly and difficult to engage with. Widows and orphans are especially affected.



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# THE GLOBAL LAND TOOL NETWORK



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GLTN is a dynamic and multisectoral alliance of international partners working to improve global land knowledge and coordination through the development, dissemination and implementation of scalable, pro-poor, fit-for-purpose and gender-responsive land tools and approaches to secure tenure rights for all.

We are committed to increasing access to land and tenure security for all, with a particular focus on the women and youth. Our **partners** include international rural and urban civil society organizations including grassroots organizations, research and training institutions, bilateral and multilateral organizations, and international professional bodies.

Our **Secretariat**, located in UN-Habitat, is responsible for day-to-day management and administration of the Network and responds to the overarching guidance of the GLTN Steering Committee.

**Land tools** are practical ways to solve a problem in land administration and management. They are methods to convert principles, policies and legislation into practice. We have developed and tested a range of land tools addressing various aspects of land administration and management. Among these are the Gender Evaluation Criteria (a series of checks to ensure that land tools incorporate gender issues), and a set of guidelines to increase access to land for women in the Muslim world. Applying the tools in various countries has led to change and positive transformation in women's and girls' tenure rights and empowerment.



## WHY A GENDER STRATEGY FOR GLTN?

Our gender strategy provides a framework for designing land tenure and governance interventions around women's and girls' land and property rights. It affirms our commitment and motivates our partners to do more to secure land and property rights for women and girls.

Our gender strategy outlines opportunities through which women's and girls' tenure rights can be secured. It underpins the centrality of gender equality in resource sharing and allocation, including land as a productive resource for women and girls.

The strategy will consolidate our efforts to secure women's and girls' land and property rights by mobilizing resources and leveraging partnerships to implement activities and monitor progress.

### GLTN'S OVERALL STRATEGY FOR 2018–2030

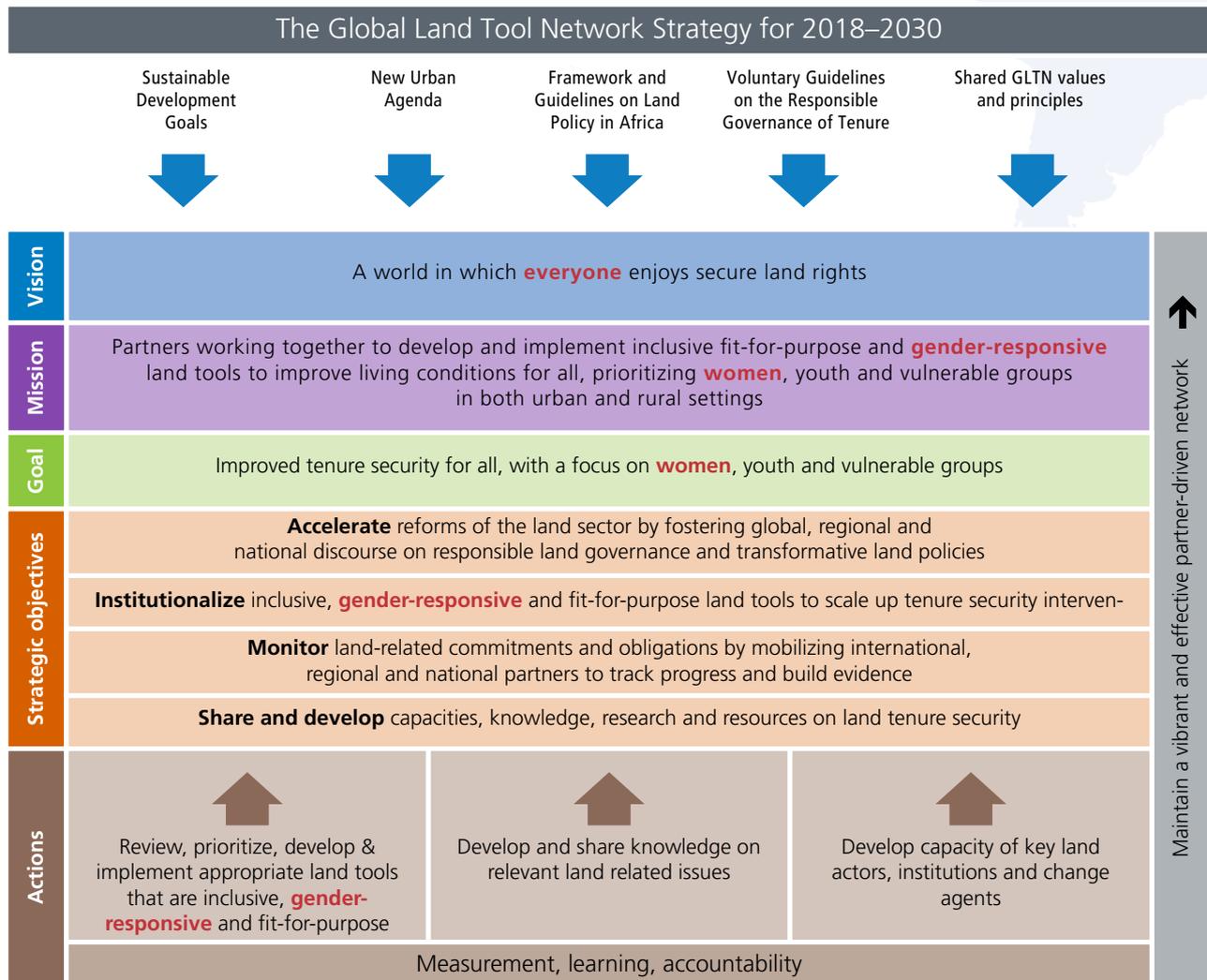
Our gender strategy expands on and supports our overall **GLTN Strategy 2018–2030**, which includes our Phase III (2019–2023) work programme. Gender is featured in all aspects of the strategy: in our vision, mission, goal, strategic objectives, and how we will monitor and evaluate our work (Figure 1).

### PREPARING OUR GENDER STRATEGY

We developed this strategy through a highly consultative process with our partners at all levels and diverse representation across thematic areas. Two of our partners, the Huairou Commission and the University of East London, facilitated a series of targeted consultative and expert meetings in 2017 and 2018. The strategy was also informed by our network's experiences in our Phases I and II. It was peer-reviewed by experts on gender and women's land rights in Kuala Lumpur in February 2018, a meeting of our partners in April 2018, and at the annual World Bank Land and Poverty Conference 2019.

This gender strategy is a living document. It recognizes that partners need to be flexible, versatile and innovative in forging fit-for-purpose responses to emerging needs, trends and new challenges and opportunities in order to better support the realization of women's and girls' land and property rights.

Our vision, mission, goal and strategic objectives are described in the overall GLTN Strategy 2018–2030, which complements and should be read alongside this document.



**Figure 1. The GLTN Strategy for 2018–2030 highlights the importance of gender**



# GENDER STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

The four core objectives of our gender strategy are to:

- Engender the implementation of our **overall 2018–2030 Strategy** to deliver gendered outcomes based on specific commitments to secure women’s and girls’ land tenure and property rights.
- Increase the use and institutionalization of **land tools** and approaches for gender-responsive land governance and legal frameworks strategies and programmes.
- Increase the number of women and girls whose **land tenure and property rights are secured**, regardless of tenure regimes, context or situations in each country.
- Strengthen **knowledge and capacities** for mainstreaming gender equality and human rights principles, and for monitoring progress in local, national, regional and global policy and governance processes that secure women’s and girls’ land, natural resources and property rights.

We aim to secure **women’s and girls’** land and property rights and the rights of their local communities. We embrace inclusive and participatory approaches that can engage **men and boys**, women and girls to secure these rights. This, in turn guarantees the rights of all.

The gender strategy gives deliberate attention to women and girls, recognizing their diversity, unique challenges and situations in securing their rights to land. It also focuses on the opportunities these create to transform their social, economic and political environment in ways that improve their prospects for sustainable development.





WOMEN'S RIGHTS  
AND NEEDS VARY

Women are by no means a homogeneous group. Their relationship with land, their needs, and the risks they take to secure their land and property vary significantly from one country or community to another: in rural and urban areas, by type of tenure, and in conflict-prone areas. Rights may also vary from one family or individual to another: according to their marital status, and in terms of age, health, disability and other factors.

- **Family status and life stages.** At different stages in their life – as girls, adolescents and adults, single or married, mothers or childless, widows or orphans – women are likely to experience land tenure and property rights in different ways. These rights are determined by laws, practices, culture and religion.
- **Land-tenure regimes.** Women may live under customary, territorial, indigenous and religious tenure regimes, and in informal settlements and slums in urban-rural nexus areas, such as peri-urban areas.
- **Conflict and post-conflict situations.** Women may be internally displaced within their own countries, refugees in other country, or returnees to their motherland. They are likely to have different tenure rights, housing and property rights from people not in conflict areas. Climate change, land degradation and migration are likely to contribute to tenure insecurity.
- **Defenders of land rights.** Those championing the rights of women, girls and their local communities from alienation, forceful evictions and other threats are often persecuted, maimed or killed by state and non-state agencies.

These different situations make it necessary to use gender-responsive tools and approaches, and to ensure that they are appropriate for the specific purpose or challenge.

Approaches are needed to secure human rights, including women's rights, ensure the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent for changes that affect people land rights, and compensation for communities in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT). Other social and environmental safeguards, including fighting corruption and increasing transparency in land transactions, are also required and need to be enforced.





OPPORTUNITIES  
IN DEVELOPMENT  
FRAMEWORKS

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Land-tenure security and housing rights are a major entry point for transformative and sustainable change in global and regional frameworks.

Securing land-tenure rights is explicitly included in the following Sustainable Development Goals: 1 (ending poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 5 (empowering women and girls), 11 (access to adequate housing and safe public spaces), 15 (forest cover and reducing land degradation). Land is also relevant to Goals 10 (reducing inequalities), 13 (climate action), 16 (peace and stability) and 17 (partnerships).

The Sustainable Development Goals contain clear targets and explicit indicators relating to land. They also emphasize the need for sex-disaggregated data to permit progress to be monitored and reported at the national level.

Three SDG indicators specifically address the relationship between women and land:

- **Goal 1, indicator 1.4.2:** Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure.
- **Goal 5, indicator 5.a.1 (a):** Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure.
- **Goal 5, indicator 5.a.2:** Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.

## NEW URBAN AGENDA

The SDG targets and indicators mirror those of the New Urban Agenda, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2016. This aims to provide secure and adequate housing for urban poor people (including women), provide access to safe public spaces, and improve urban land planning and governance.

Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land

The VGGT, agreed by the United Nations Committee on World Food Security in 2012, aim to steer efforts towards eradicating hunger and poverty and strengthening gender equality in access to land and natural resources. They put tenure rights for local communities at the centre of sustainable livelihoods development. That includes tenure rights for women and indigenous people, and rights to fisheries and forest resources.

The VGGT provide a set of 10 principles for the implementation of responsible land governance. These include human dignity, non-discrimination, equity and justice, and gender equality, including the rights of women and girls. The same principles are mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals.

### AFRICAN UNION'S AGENDA 2063

The African Union's Agenda 2063, agreed in 2013, outlines a 50-year development trajectory for Africa. Its monitoring plan undertakes to ensure equal economic rights for women by 2025, including the rights to own and inherit property. It sets a target of at least 20 percent of rural women having access to and control over productive assets, including land, financial services and information.

### OTHER POLICY FRAMEWORKS

Other policy frameworks that support similar principles include:

- The African Union's Framework and Guideline on Land Policy and its Gender Strategy
- Policies proposed by the Arab States and other regional governmental bodies, including the United Nations economic commissions and bodies on all continents working on land and gender issues.



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OUR COMMITMENTS  
AND ACTIONS

We will continue to leverage the achievement of global, regional, sub-regional and country obligations and commitments towards securing women's and girls' land rights. We do this by aligning our actions with the VGGT, SDGs, the NUA and the Africa Union Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa. We are committed to leaving no one behind.

Securing women's and girls' tenure rights to land and property is a complex and dynamic issue. The proposed actions listed below do not in any way limit our scope for innovation, learning and flexibility in the adoption of land tools and strategies in support of the overall goal.

As a learning network of partners, we embrace and nurture innovation around gender-responsive and fit-for-purpose land tools. We support their development and implementation, and we promote the connecting and learning of best practices to achieve positive, gendered outcomes at scale.

We commit to taking the actions outlined in the following paragraphs, through our partners' independent and joint actions, and with the support of our Secretariat, to achieve secure land tenure and property rights for women and girls.



Photo © FAO/Florence Tonnoir.

## STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

**We will strengthen our innovative partnerships, as anchored in our overall mission.**

We aim to have a large-scale influence on policies and practices relating to women's and girls' rights to land and property. We will do this by building on our multi-stakeholder membership, which makes GLTN the largest and most diverse global network working on land governance issues. They also put us in an ideal position to intensify the fight for women's and girls' rights to land, housing and property.

Our network consolidates under a single umbrella the efforts of partners from different backgrounds. It embodies a collective that fosters innovation, learning and sharing of best practices. It supports the development, testing and implementation of land tools and approaches that secure women's and girls' rights to land and property. Partnership avoids duplication and makes the most effective and efficient use of scarce human, technical and financial resources. It enables rich, multi-stakeholder dialogue and high-level advocacy and influencing of policymakers at all levels. It builds on each partner's experiences. Networking fosters synergies that keep the momentum to achieve tenure rights for women and girls through local action on policy and practice.

We connect and inspire work that secures women's and girls' land and natural resource rights. We work to integrate gender-responsive and fit-for-purpose land tools and approaches into the policies and practices of governments and related land institutions at regional and global levels. We support efforts to achieve gender equality and promoting women's and girls' rights.

We will further build on the strategic partnerships we have established with governments and inter-governmental organizations, regional land and data institutions, civil society organizations (including grassroots organizations and networks), research and academia, the private sector and multilateral organizations (including donors and United Nations agencies) to achieve the desired outcomes.

Our strategic partnership with governments ensures that women's and girls' land rights are included in their development agendas, policies and strategies. It also fosters accountability by generating data and other evidence to assess progress, and for planning and policy decision-making.

We will continue to connect the efforts of grassroots organizations, local, national, regional and global efforts, using our strategic partnerships to access policy spaces for learning and sharing.

## ENGENDER OUR OWN GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

**We will embed gender equality further into the governance and management of GLTN.**

We are committed to securing women's and girls' land and property rights. Our documents and workplans will clearly recognize and promote our network's action towards gender equality in land and related resources. We will include gender targets and indicators in our work plans to measure progress.

In selecting and/or nominating members to our steering committee and for cluster leaders and other governance functions, we will progressively aim for 50 percent of either gender.

When filling in any position, the Secretariat will aim for 50 percent of either gender by 2023. This policy will be regardless of seniority. We will not compromise the standard of skills and competencies required. We will continue to conform to UN-Habitat's gender-equality policy of hiring and human resource development.

Our network governance bodies, Secretariat and cluster leaders will receive induction or sensitization (virtually or through physical sessions) on responsiveness to gender issues, principles and responsiveness to women and youth needs, including girls' land and property rights.

### PROMOTE GENDER-RESPONSIVE AND FIT-FOR-PURPOSE LAND TOOLS

**We will continue to develop and promote gender-responsive and fit-for-purpose land tools.**

The development, testing and implementation of gender-responsive, fit-for-purpose land tools is an essential part of our work. Most of the land tools already developed, tested and implemented by our partners have demonstrated their usefulness in addressing women's and girls' land tenure issues. They are easily adaptable and scalable in diverse cultural, legal and geographical contexts.

We will strengthen tools such as the gender evaluation criteria, participatory enumerations and social tenure domain model to make them more gender responsive. We will develop new tools on a needs basis to address glaring gender gaps, and will promote their adoption and further development by our partners.

We will promote the uptake and development of technological innovations in land administration and governance that secure women's and girls' rights. An increasing number of fit-for-purpose land-administration and policy-reform programmes are being scaled up in communities and countries. We will update the gender evaluation criteria to guide gender-responsive assessments in these new settings. This will include addressing the context of territorial and indigenous land rights and post-conflict situations.

We will review, develop, test and implement land tools done through inclusive and participatory processes led by our partners. This will enhance the ownership and increase the uptake of the tools at the local, sub-national and national levels.

### SCALE UP COUNTRY-LEVEL INITIATIVES

**We will scale up country-level initiatives for sustainable gendered outcomes.**

We support the development of national-level policies to secure land tenure and property rights for women and girls. We foster local and national partnerships that further this aim through the sustainable use of gender-responsive and fit-for-purpose tools.

We will support efforts to introduce accelerated land reform, gender-responsive land policies and capacity development for governments and other partners. We will do this in various ways, including through technical assistance and peer learning. We will focus especially on addressing systemic and structural causes of tenure insecurity, and on reviewing policies for better articulation of gender nuances and provisions; and advocacy at country level.



Photo © UN-Habitat/Iraq.

## INTEGRATE LAND RIGHTS FOR WOMEN INTO OTHER SECTORS

**We will strive to integrate secure land rights for women and girls and development outcomes in other key sectors.**

Land is key in increasing agriculture productivity, enhancing livelihoods and improving economic wellbeing. Securing land rights for women and girls increases their prospects for embracing responsible land-use practices and environmental conservation. This, in turn, reduces land degradation and fosters peace and stability. A lack of tenure security is likely to mean women will not be key decision makers in land governance and will have limited opportunities to contribute to poverty eradication and other targets in the SDGs.

We will raise awareness of these linkages and benefits, and enter into collaborative projects with relevant role players and actors at global, national and local levels as part of our ongoing work in promoting tenure security for all.

## FACILITATE WOMEN LEADERS

**We will facilitate the development of women leaders, including grassroots women and young professionals, through institutional placement in our network and with our partners.**

We will make a deliberate effort to expand the pool of women leaders, professionals from the global North and South, through targeted placements with our partners and the secretariat. In this way, we aim to increase the number of gender champions working towards securing women's and girls' land and property rights.



Photo © UN-Habitat/Wondi Tesfaye.

On the basis of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), we will promote an increasingly active role for women in peace and conflict-resolution processes related to land, such as the negotiation of peace agreements, the work of land commissions, bodies dealing with displacement; and capacity development.

The women we will support will include young professionals and potential champions seconded from our partners including from relevant ministries and government departments; foreign missions and donor agencies. These women will have an opportunity to learn from our work and develop their capacity to lead efforts on women's and girls' land and property rights.

These women will serve as key resource people, facilitate sessions, conduct research, manage peer-learning and exchanges across agencies, contribute to programme design and implementation, and offer advisory services on key thematic areas on women's and girls' land and property rights. They will undertake national, regional and global advocacy and policy influencing.

On their return to their respective organizations, these champions will be able to provide strategic support to develop the capacity of national, regional and global institutions and platforms, and to further develop knowledge and talent on women and girls' land and property rights.

## STRENGTHEN CAPACITY ON WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

**We will strengthen the capacity of policymakers and practitioners on women's and girls' land and property rights.**

Our capacity-strengthening activities with regard to gender will focus on:

- GLTN Partners, Secretariat and steering committee, and other implementing partners
- Governments, sub-regional and regional governmental and non-governmental bodies and international organizations.

We aim to foster a deeper understanding of institutional gaps, map approaches to addressing women and girls' tenure issues, and have women's and youth issues at the centre of policy discourse and programme initiatives.

We will promote multi-stakeholder action learning towards securing tenure rights to improve insight and strengthen internal capacity among key players.

Our capacity-development activities will include training, learning events, expert-group meetings, national multi-stakeholder dialogues, targeted seminars, and workshops on gender and land rights.

We will explore the thematic expertise and experiences of our partners, including grassroots organizations, to provide leadership and facilitation and to complement training activities. We are eager to see key interventions translate into policies and practices that secure land and property rights for women and girls.

We will use a variety of training structures, contents and delivery formats. We will hold dedicated sessions on women's and girls' land and property rights, gender-responsive programming, thematic sector linkages, and the challenges and opportunities linked to the application of specific tools, policies or practices.

We will progressively aim for 50 percent participants of either gender in all trainings, workshops and other learning activities.

Our reports on training and capacity development, internal and external project results and other documents will include a chapter on the gender dimensions of the topic covered.

We will enhance access to online training and other resource materials from our partners and other sources that address gender and land issues.

We will use peer learning and exchanges for women leaders, our partners and collaborators to influence perceptions and traditional norms and practices regarding the rights of women and girls.

## FACILITATE ACCESS TO POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING PLATFORMS

**We will convene and facilitate our partners' access to policy and decision-making platforms.**

Key decisions on land governance and management may be made at various levels: local, municipal, sub-national or national level. We will press for women's voices to be heard so they can influence these decisions.

To ensure women are included in decision-making over land and property, we will promote their access to the appropriate tools for engagement, including negotiation.

We will document these experiences and best practices in securing women's and girls' rights so they can help influence policy decisions at regional and global levels. We will explicitly describe what works and what does not.

### ADVOCATE TO SECURE WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

**We will mobilize and lead efforts towards joint advocacy, influencing and campaigning to secure women's and girls' land rights.**

We and our partners engage with policymakers and other parties to advocate for women's and girls' rights. These efforts need further strengthening and more resources to better link local initiatives to national processes and regional and global efforts.

Together with our partners Landesa, the World Bank, Huairou Commission and Habitat for Humanity, we are leading the "Stand for Her Land" global campaign towards securing women's and girls' land rights. This campaign demands attention to policies and practices to secure these rights at the national level.

Our partners will continue to play a leading role in this campaign by applying gendered land tools and fast-tracking key actions in legislative reforms to remove barriers to secure women's and girls' land rights.

Our partners are strengthening their local and national-led efforts to secure tenure rights. They are contributing to other global campaigns, including the global call to action to secure indigenous people's land. Women's land rights are a vital part of this.

The space for civil society to advocate and influence policy change is shrinking. To combat this, we will explore strategic partnerships with key institutional champions, while developing their capacities to articulate women's and girls' rights within the broader context of human rights.

We will use a "do no harm" approach to protect the rights of women and girls in challenging situations, including our support for the defenders of women's land rights, in conflict and post-conflict situations, and in supporting the land rights of indigenous women and women under customary tenure regimes.

Such an approach, and using suitable tools to address land and gender issues in communities that hold deep cultural, territorial and religious values, are key to understanding and appreciating the challenges that women and girls face. This will help us design strategies that best safeguard their rights.

We recognize the need to involve men as advocates and supporters of women's and girls' rights. Our experience has shown that involving men has been especially successful in securing women's land rights under customary tenure.

# Women and Land in the Muslim World

Pathways to increase access to land for the realization of development, peace and human rights

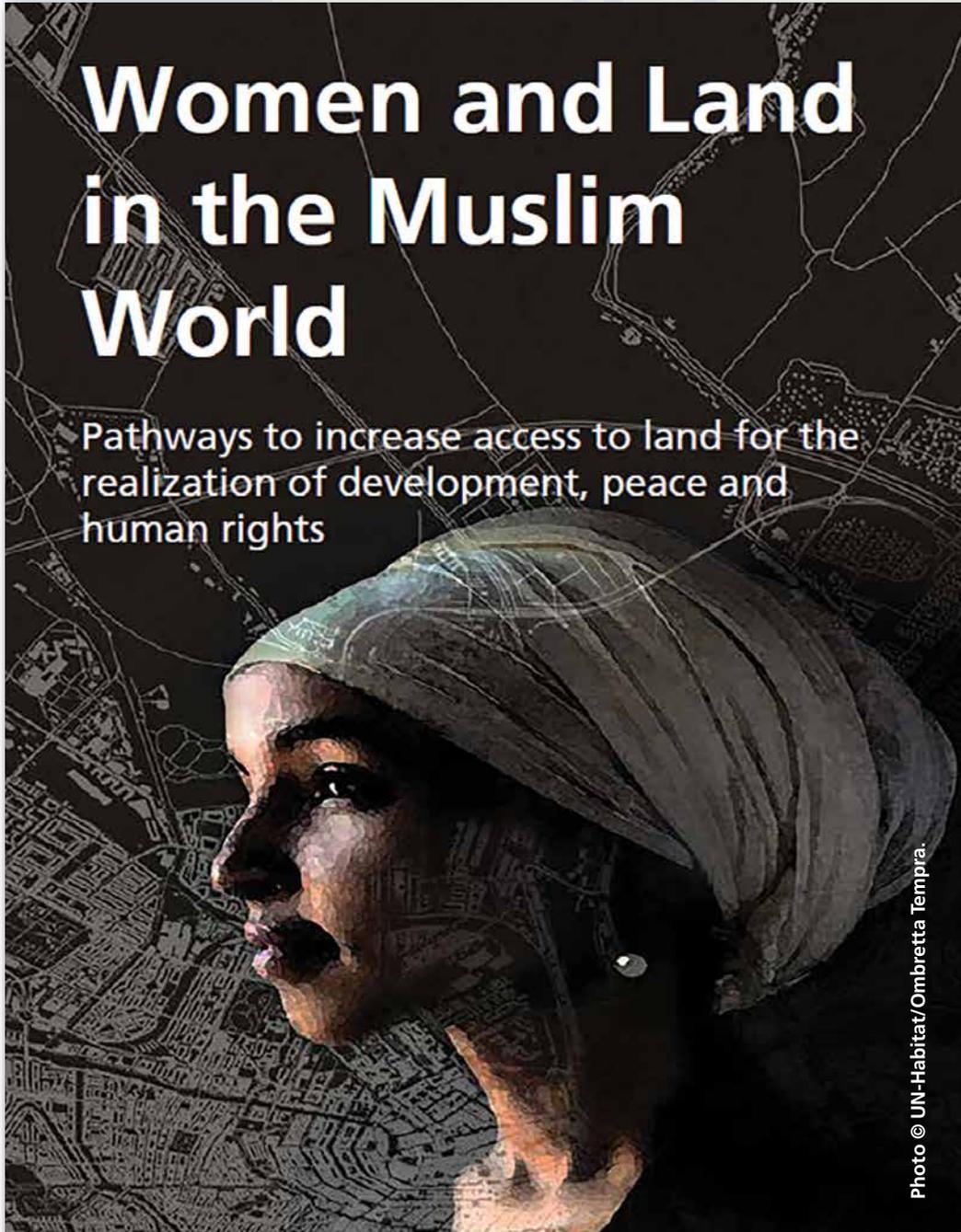


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**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



While we acknowledge the role of men as champions and supporters of women's and girls' land rights, we understand the importance of keeping women, youth and girls at the centre of decision making to ensure they are not replaced or represented by others. This will ensure women's and girls' roles and leadership are sustained and their participation is not diminished.

### BOOST RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

We will boost our efforts for research and knowledge management on land issues that concern women.

We have long experience in research and producing knowledge products that inform the development of tools and policies for responsible land governance. This work includes advising policy reforms, developing policy briefs and technical guides, and monitoring and evaluating government obligations and commitments.

We will sustain and promote action research on the following topics:

- Gaps in knowledge and practice relating to women's land rights
- Women living under customary tenure and indigenous community land rights
- Conflict and women's land rights
- Urban land and property rights

- Gender and land-based investment in agriculture and other sectors
- Gender, land degradation and climate change
- The application of land tools, with a focus on the country level.
- The suitability of specific approaches in programming, financing and scaling up of women's and girls' land and property rights in different contexts

The findings and recommendations from research will inform our actions and the approaches we use to securing women's land rights.

We will continue to publish and disseminate knowledge products online and in print. We aim for these to inform and shape the discourse on land rights policies and governance processes related to women.

We will strengthen our online knowledge-sharing platforms for information dissemination and training to enhance access to land tools, publications, trainings and other products for the land community, researchers and practitioners across the world.

We will facilitate our partners' and collaborators' continuous learning and sharing towards the development of a community of practice on women's land and property rights. We use webinars, audio-visual materials and publications to extend its impact beyond our network.



MONITORING

Our GLTN Strategy and Phase III work programme will strengthen our ability to monitor and evaluate our interventions.

### GLOBALLY COMPARABLE DATA ON WOMEN AND TENURE SECURITY

We leverage the generation of official data and statistics by national statistical organizations. We will complement this with other data sources in tracking and reporting the progress on land tenure and property rights for women and girls.

Sex-disaggregated data are vital for making policy decisions and tracking progress on women's and girls' land and property rights. Accurate data are scarce because of a lack of standardized conceptual frameworks, tools and methodologies. But since the establishment of the **Global Land Indicators Initiative** in 2012, much progress has been made. This Initiative, which we host, facilitated the development of globally comparable indicators for monitoring land governance issues.

The **SDG land indicators** 1.4.2, 5.a.1, 5.a.2 and 11.1.1 now have an internationally approved methodology for monitoring progress on tenure rights, legal frameworks and access to adequate housing for women and girls at national level. The task remains to assist countries to use the methodology to gather the required sex disaggregated data and report progress.

We will continue to work with and support government efforts to ensure that national voluntary reviews based on specific Sustainable Development Goals clearly document and track progress, and that reports articulate issues on women and girls' tenure and property rights.

### STRENGTHENING CAPACITY IN MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We will strive to strengthen capacities in monitoring and evaluating of women's and girls' tenure rights, and the associated outcomes and impacts.

We will apply results-based management in the planning, implementation and monitoring of key outcomes and impacts associated with our work. In particular, we will monitor the number of women and girls with secure tenure rights.

We will develop the capacity of actors to generate sex disaggregated data on women's and girls' land and property rights. This will cover data collection, processing, reporting, and storage in secure databases. We will allocate budget and human resources on an annual basis for the collection, analysis and reporting of sex-disaggregated data.

Through the Global Land Indicators Initiative, we will continue to develop data tools and promote the use of indicators and methodologies for comparable, sex-disaggregated data to monitor land governance and evaluate impacts at scale.

We will strengthen our partners' data infrastructure, data quality, standards and tools for collecting land data on women, girls and youth. We will mentor and support national statistical organizations and other actors charged with the monitoring of land indicators in the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, the African Union's Agenda 2063, the VGGT, the African Land Policy Centre - Monitoring and Evaluation of Land in Africa initiative. We will also support data-related



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efforts at local and national levels by civil society, the private sector, research and academia and other entities concerned with women's, girls' and youth land rights.

We will conduct systematic reviews, training and other capacity-development sessions aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and other national, regional and global frameworks.

## MONITORING GENDER IN LAND INTERVENTIONS

We will design and provide robust guidelines, tools and approaches for monitoring and evaluation of land interventions. We will use these to assess the performance and impact of land tenure and governance interventions, including our own interventions.

We will facilitate and convene expert group meetings, advocacy and influencing sessions that spur gender and

data evidence-based planning and decision making by governments, civil society, the private sector and other actors as a means to identify, profile and pay attention to key issues affecting women's and girls' tenure rights.

We will encourage land and data communities to share their best practices, promote cross-learning and assess progress in securing women's, girls' and youth rights at local, national, regional and global levels.

We will facilitate the development of the Global Status Report on Land Governance. In this we will underscore the key issues affecting women's and girls' rights, and ensure that they are supported with evidence from rural and urban, indigenous, cultural and religious contexts.

### MONITORING AND EVALUATING OUR OVERALL GLTN STRATEGY 2018–2030

The overall GLTN strategy has a clear goal: "improved tenure security for all, with a focus on women, youth and vulnerable groups". We will monitor progress towards this goal at various levels:

**Impact indicators** include the proportion of the adult population with secure tenure rights to land with officially recognized documentation and who perceive their tenure rights to be secure – disaggregated by sex, type of tenure and type of group/situations (e.g. for indigenous people, urban informal settlements; refugees and returnees etc).

**Outcome indicators** include the gender-responsiveness of national and international policies and programmes, i.e. whether they adequately address the needs of women and girls in their relationship to land.

In addition, we will monitor gender representation in our governance structures, programmes and beneficiaries.

We will monitor targeted programmes and initiatives geared toward securing women's and girls' land and property rights. We will report the outcomes to our partners, donors and other actors.

We will conduct mid-term and external evaluations of such initiatives so we can learn from them.

Where possible, we will use standard indicators, such as those developed for the Sustainable Development Goals, to monitor our own work.

We encourage our partners to implement surveys and studies and to install monitoring systems to track progress made in securing women's and girls' rights at local, sub-national and national levels. These should gather information on sub-populations and groups of interest.

The monitoring and evaluation of our overall strategy will provide an assessment of our responsiveness to women's and girls' land rights and the principles of gender equality within our network and Secretariat, and in our programmes and operations. Our annual reports, mid-term and external evaluations will feature specific sections on progress to securing women's and girls' land and property rights. They will cover both our own work and that of our key partners.

### MONITORING OUR GENDER STRATEGY

We will monitor and evaluate implementation of this gender strategy independently of our overall GLTN

strategy. We will conduct both internal monitoring and mid-term and external evaluations. We will do this to ensure we keep our commitments to securing women's and girls' land and property rights. We will critically analyse the progress made so we can learn lessons and identify opportunities to do more.

This gender strategy will run between 2019 and 2030. We will hold mid-term internal reviews involving our partners and the Secretariat in 2021, 2024 and 2027, and external evaluations in 2023, 2026 and 2029. The results will provide critical information for planning and decision making.

### CELEBRATING BEST PRACTICES

We will establish a periodic global award to celebrate key achievers and contributors among our partners in securing women's and girls' rights. This will be a competitive process. It will recognize and profile those partners who have used innovative tools and approaches to secure women's and girls' land and property rights. The winners will be selected from applications or nominations. The process will be led by our Secretariat and supported by a selected technical group. The award will be announced at each meeting of our partners.



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IMPLEMENTATION  
FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
GENDER STRATEGY

## CENTRAL ROLE OF OUR PARTNERS

Our partners are the main implementers of this strategy through their own programmes and activities at various levels. Their commitment mirrors the overall governance and operations of the Network and its shared values, vision and mission, with securing women's and girls' land and property rights at the core of its work.

Our partners will need to provide staff time and resources to support the implementation and achievement of our objectives, and to strengthen our Secretariat's own responsiveness to women's and girls' rights, thereby ensuring our network is gender responsive.

Our partners, individually or in clusters, will design interventions and programmes to address country, regional and global needs relating to women's and girls' rights to land and property. This may include the development of new tools and approaches, and advocacy and campaign efforts.

We encourage collaboration among our partners to promote and secure the rights of women, girls and youth at scale and to promote gender equality in land issues.

## ROLE OF OUR SECRETARIAT

Our Secretariat will coordinate, link and support individual partners (or clusters of partners) for gender-related interventions. It will support the partners in the identification, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these interventions. It will assist with mobilizing resources for these activities.

The Secretariat will prioritize opportunities that enhance the technical capacity-development, programme financing and institutional resources to scale up work on women's and girls' tenure and property rights at all levels.

The Secretariat will strengthen the gender responsiveness of our network governance structure with the support of the Steering Committee. This will include (but is not limited to) attention to gender parity across all governance structures (e.g., the Steering Committee, cluster leads, staffing, operational and programme activities). We will ensure that gender parity is considered, where feasible and practical, in projects at both the international and country levels.

## FINANCE, TECHNICAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Our Secretariat will mobilize resources from among our partners, donors and supporters, multi-lateral organizations and other actors to implement this gender strategy. a

We are committed to transparency and accountability in our actions and the resources secured to support the implementation. We will ensure that the contributions of key contributors, including our partners and other supporters, are duly credited.

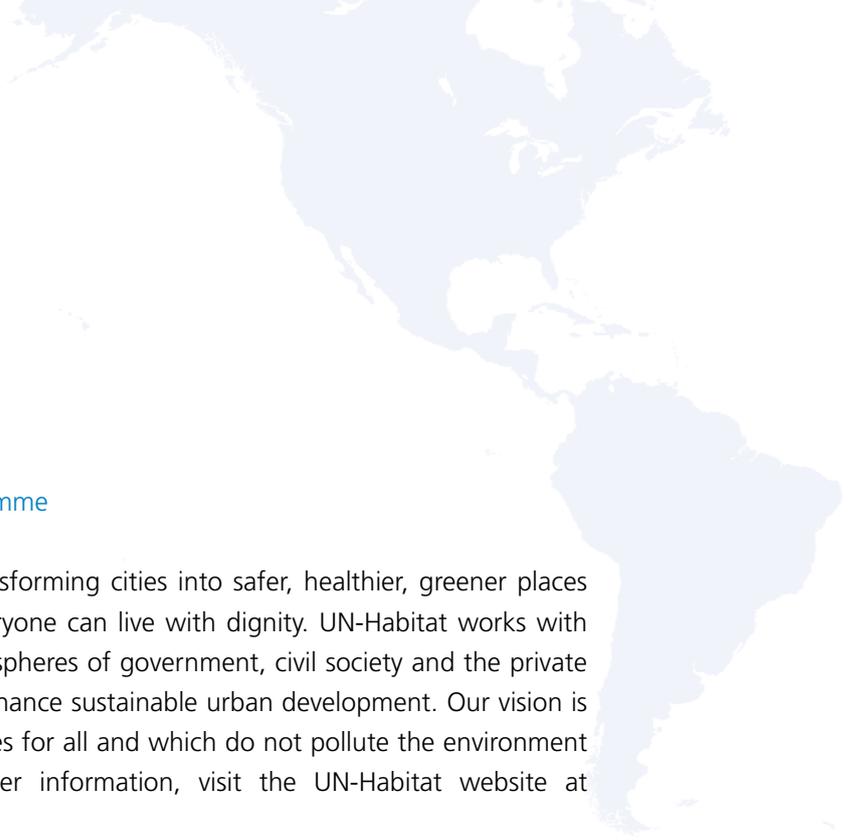
We will pursue resource mobilization approaches, including donor engagement, proposal development targeting funding facilities, foundations and philanthropic ventures, to raise the resources needed to implement this strategy. We will consider implementation of targeted interventions on the land and property rights of specific interest to the donor community, contributing to the overall objective.

We invite donors and supporters to support our gender strategy through core and dedicated funding for network coordination, facilitation and delivery of specific, gendered outcomes.

GLTN donors and partners are:







### United Nations Human Settlement Programme

UN-Habitat helps the urban poor by transforming cities into safer, healthier, greener places with better opportunities and where everyone can live with dignity. UN-Habitat works with organizations at every level, including all spheres of government, civil society and the private sector, to help build, manage, plan and finance sustainable urban development. Our vision is cities without slums that are liveable places for all and which do not pollute the environment or deplete natural resources. For further information, visit the UN-Habitat website at [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

### The Global Land Tool Network

The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) is an alliance of international land actors contributing to poverty alleviation and the Sustainable Development Goals through promoting access to land and tenure security for all. The Network's partnership is drawn from rural and urban civil society organisations, international research and training institutions, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and international professional bodies. GLTN takes a holistic approach to land challenges through the development, dissemination and implementation of pro-poor and gender responsive land tools. These tools and approaches contribute to land reform, good land governance, fit-for-purpose land administration, sustainable land management, and functional land sector coordination. For further information, visit the GLTN web site at [www.glt.net](http://www.glt.net)



## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The GLTN Gender Strategy (2019-2030) provides a framework for designing land tenure and governance interventions around women's and girls' land and property rights. It affirms our commitment and motivates our partners to do more to secure land and property rights for women and girls. It underpins the centrality of gender equality in resource sharing and allocation, including land as a productive resource for women and girls. The strategy will consolidate our efforts to secure women's and girls' land and property rights by mobilizing resources and leveraging partnerships to implement activities and monitor progress.

This is a living document. It recognizes that partners need to be flexible, versatile and innovative in forging fit-for-purpose responses to emerging needs, trends and new challenges and opportunities in order to better support the realization of women's and girls' land and property rights.

Our vision, mission, goal and strategic objectives are described in our overall GLTN Strategy 2018–2030, which complements and should be read alongside this document.

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