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Simplified Version of the
United Nations Voluntary Guidelines
on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of
Land, Fisheries and Forests
in the Context of National Food Security

1. Farmers

- Farmers have rights to hold and use land, fisheries and forests whether registered or not registered
- Farmers have the right to demand justice
- Farmers have a right to be protected against eviction
- Farmers have the rights to be informed prior to any land deal



2. States have the obligations to:

- Provide necessary laws to recognize, respect and protect people's land rights
- Provide access to justice
- Prevent tenure disputes
- Seek free prior informed consent of all community members
- Provide equitable land valuation mechanisms and fair tax systems for land, fisheries and forestry



3. Investors have the obligations to:

- Disclose at all times and in all settings, full information of their real investment and land use intentions
- Respect and recognize the land rights of all community members
- Seek agreement of all community members before any land contract is signed



4. Communities (farmers, traditional and religious leaders) have obligation to:

- Know their rights and how to protect themselves against corrupt behaviors from others
- Demand full compensation where their rights are lawfully or unlawfully violated
- Provide and promote a conducive environment for negotiations and interactions with investors and the government
- Provide and apply all available dispute resolution systems
- Should ensure that women are not discriminated against on issues that relate to use of land, fisheries and forests



5. Judiciary have the obligations to:

- Apply and enforce all existing laws to protect interest of farmers and other land rights holders
- Hear all cases without discrimination on basis of gender, ethnicity and religion
- Services should be provided promptly and efficiently without requesting bribes



6. Ministries, Departments and Agencies have the obligations to:

- Make relevant information on land holdings public
- Conduct service delivery in a transparent and accountable manner towards land users
- Deliver equal services to all including farmers in rural and remote areas
- Promote participation of the farmers in decision making processes
- Work with the state to promote, protect, and fulfil rights of farmers



ActionAid is a global movement of people working together to achieve greater human rights for all and defeat poverty. We believe people in poverty have the power within them to create change for themselves, their families and communities ActionAid is a catalyst for the change.

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