

Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe

Housing Policy in Europe: Land, Tenure and Geospatial Evidence for Inclusive and Affordable Housing

Strengthening Housing through Effective Land Administration: The Role of FELA and EG-LAM

**Geneva, Switzerland
23 June 2026**

Paula Dijkstra. Co-chair Expert Group on Land Administration & Management



Towards inclusive and affordable Housing

Housing challenges are complex, addressing the challenges require an integrated, multi-disciplinary response.

Housing challenges are land and data challenges.

Land administration is a key enabler, but needs to be part of a broader, coordinated policy ecosystem.



2030 Agenda – SDGs

Land Administration & Housing



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 by **type of tenure**.



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**

5.a.2: Proportion of countries where the **legal framework** (including customary law) **guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control**



11.1 By 2030, ensure **access** for all to **adequate, safe and affordable housing** and basic services and **upgrade slums**



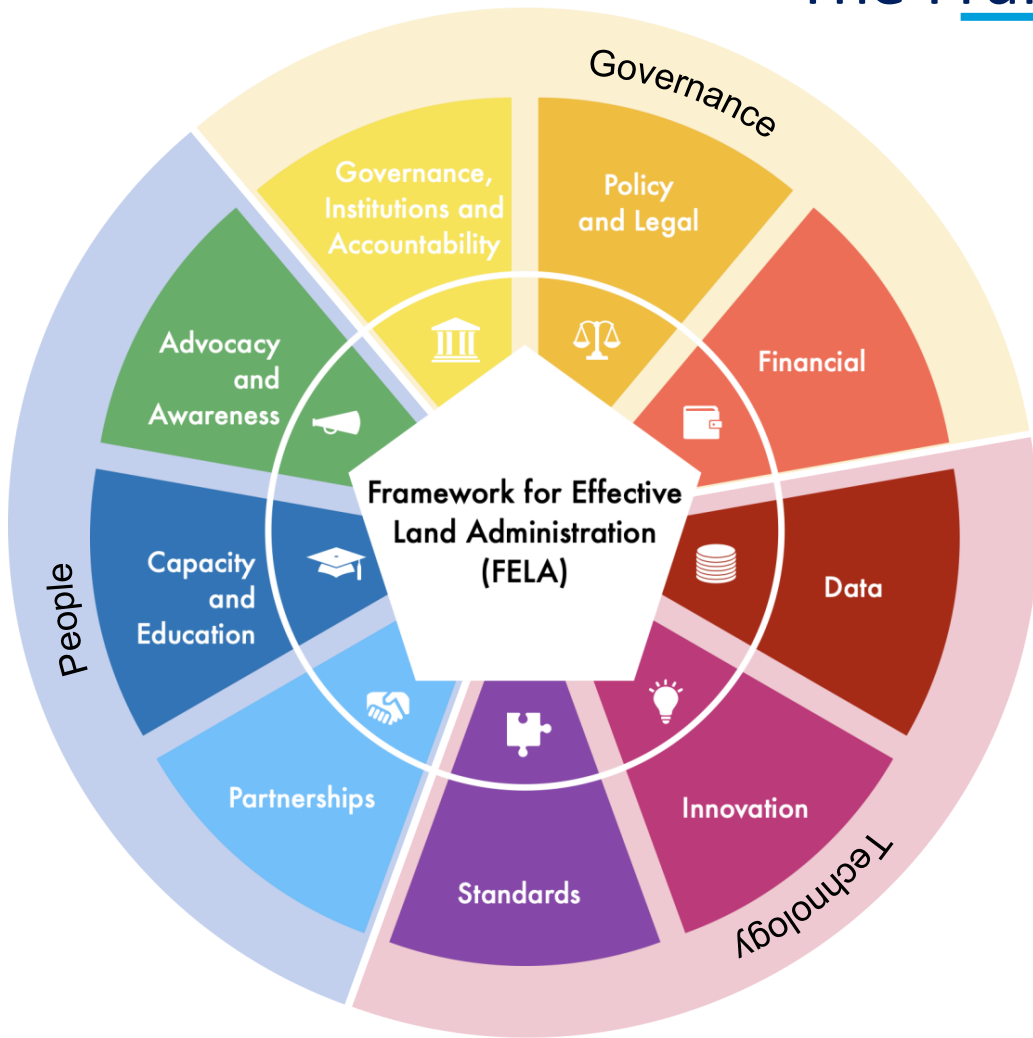
UNGGIM and Expert Group on Land Administration & Management

- UN-GGIM: global coordination on geospatial information
- EG-LAM:
 - focuses on land administration and management
 - promotes integrated, inclusive, interoperable land administration systems
 - supports SDGs (especially 1 and 5)
- Core mission:
 - Advance integrated and fit-for-purpose land administration by promoting geospatial tools and raising policy awareness
 - Strengthen tenure security and ensuring all people-to-land relationships are captured to support sustainable development



The Framework for Effective Land Administration

Sustainable development demands effective land administration



- Adopted at 10th Session of UN-GGIM in 2020
- Global Framework for Land Administration

The Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA), acts as an overarching policy guide, which provides a reference for Member States when developing, renewing, reforming, strengthening, modernizing, or monitoring land administration.



Expert Group on Land Administration

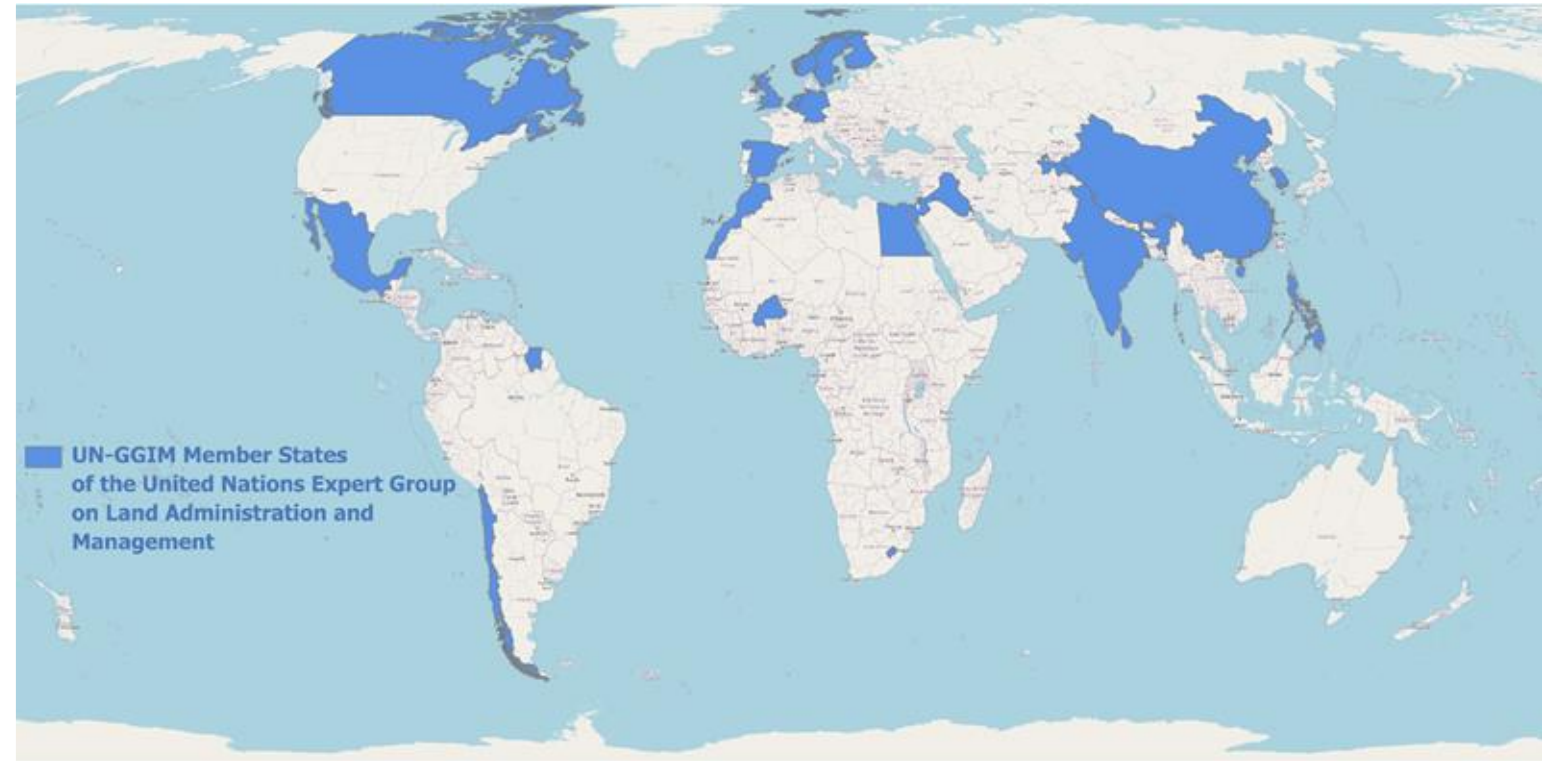
MEMBER STATES

Barbados
Belgium
Burkina Faso
Canada
Chile
China
Egypt
Finland
Germany
India
Iraq
Jordan
Korea (Republic of)
Lesotho
Mexico
Morocco
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
Norway
Philippines
Singapore
Spain
Sri Lanka
State of Palestine
Suriname
Sweden
Tajikistan
Tonga
United Kingdom

NON- MEMBER STATES

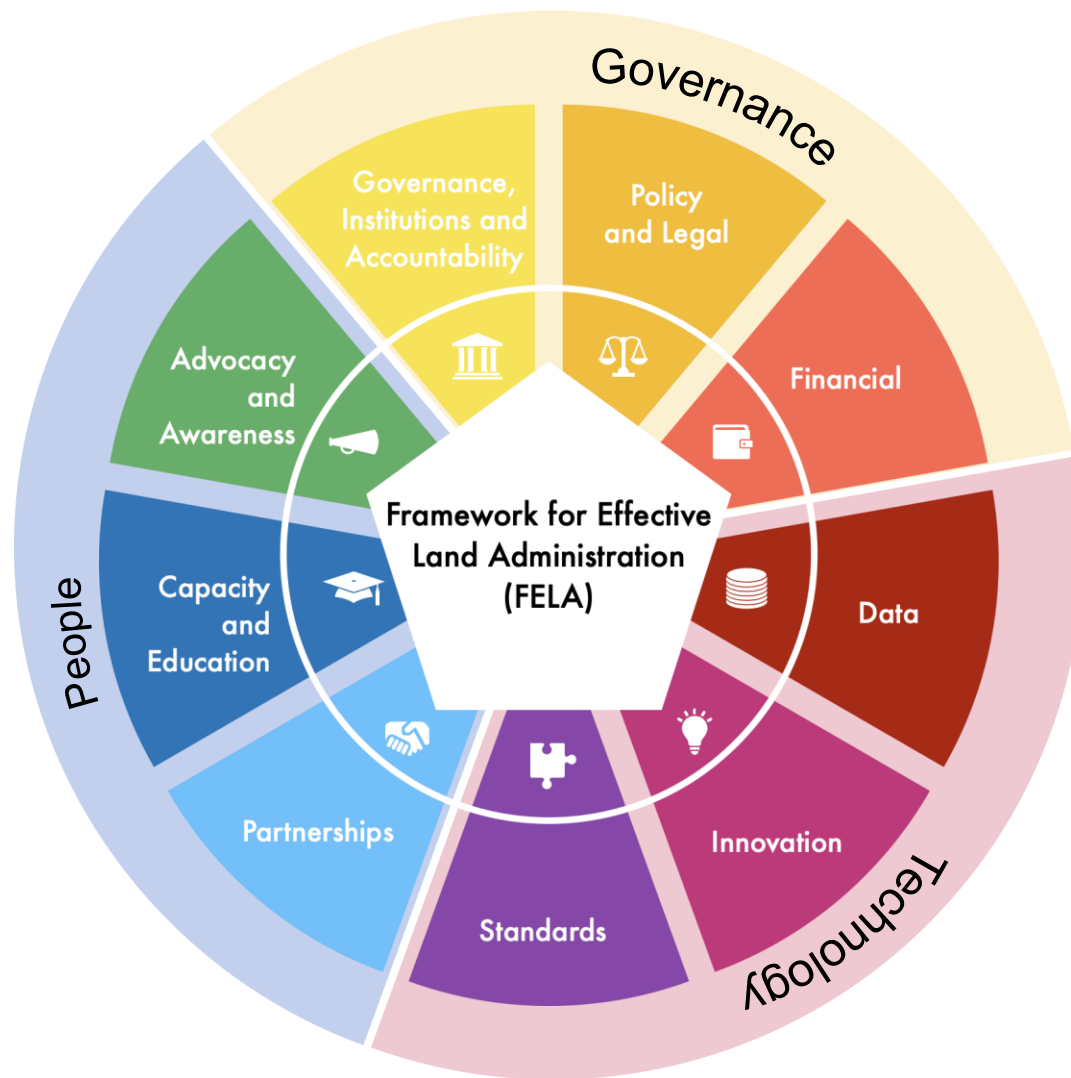
International Hydrographic Organization
Food and Agriculture Organization
UNECE-WPLA
UN-Habitat-GLTN
World Bank
Standards Development Organization (Open Geospatial Consortium)
Standards Development Organization (International Organization for Standardization-TC 211)

UN-GGIM: Geospatial Societies (International Federation of Surveyors)
UN-GGIM: Academic Network (University of Melbourne)
UN-GGIM: Private Sector Network (Esri)
UN-GGIM: Private Sector Network (Hexagon Geosystem)



- Current Members
- 28 Member States
 - 11 Non Member States





Source: UNGGIM. Framework for Effective Land Administration. Available online: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/documents/F-C.20-2020-29-Add_2-Framework-for-Effective-Land-Administration.pdf Figure adapted by Unger EM



Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe
Session 3: Harnessing Geospatial Data for Sustainable Housing & Land

FELA & Housing

No effective housing policy without effective land administration.

FELA enables:

Tenure security

Enabling
inclusive land-
use planning

Improving land
markets and
affordability

Land-based
finance for
housing

Data-driven
housing policy

Addressing
inequality and
vulnerability

Preventing
conflict and
displacement



FELA & Housing

Contributing to sustainable housing with FELA

Tenure security

Recognising people to land relationships

- Reduces informality and slums
- Enables households to invest in housing
- Improves access to credit (mortgages)
- Prevents forced evictions

Enabling inclusive land-use planning

Participatory and equitable land-use planning.

- Supports zoning for affordable housing
- Balances urban growth with social needs
- Integrates housing with infrastructure and transport
- Prevents land speculation and exclusion

Improving land markets and affordability

Efficient, transparent, and fair land markets

- Reduces price distortions
- Improves availability of buildable land
- Supports taxation and land value capture for housing programs
- Limits land speculation

Land-based finance for housing

Land-based financing tools

Examples:

- land value capture
- property taxation
- development charges
- :
- Generates funding for affordable housing
- Supports urban infrastructure needed for housing
- Links urban growth to public benefit



Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe

Session 3: Harnessing Geospatial Data for Sustainable Housing & Land

FELA & Housing

Contributing to sustainable housing with FELA

Data-driven housing policy

Integrated geospatial land data systems

Identifies available land for housing
Tracks vacancy and underuse
Improves planning decisions
Supports evidence-based housing policy

Addressing inequality and vulnerability

Inclusion of women, young people, single-parent households, migrants, and people at risk of poverty.

- Expands access to adequate housing
- Reduces housing inequality
- Aligns with the “leave no one behind” principle

Preventing conflict and displacement

Land conflicts often drive housing crises.

FELA

- Reduces disputes
- Stabilizes land systems
- Supports post-disaster rebuilding
- Ensures continuity of housing rights
- Helps manage migration and displacement



Key gaps in Europe

(more knowledge and analysis required)

Data Gap

- Fragmented tenure data (especially about rent & informal housing)
- Underutilized linkage between statistics and spatial data

Institutional Gaps

- Segmented cooperation between institutions responsible for
 - Housing
 - Land administration
 - Property valuation
 - Spatial Planning & land use
 - National Geospatial Infrastructure
 - Statistics

Implementation Gaps

- Strong (global / regional / national) frameworks
- Limited operationalization



Opportunities for UNGGIM Europe

UN-GGIM Europe can act as a bridge between data, land and housing policy

- Provide a Platform for:
 - Knowledge exchange
 - Good practices
 - Valuable use cases
- Collaboration with:
 - Eurostat: data integration
 - UNECE: housing policy
 - UN-Habitat & UN-OHCHR: human rights & urban frameworks



Thank you



Source: UNGGIM. Framework for Effective Land Administration. Available online: <https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/documents/E-C.20-2020-29-Add.2-Framework-for-EffectiveLand-Administration.pdf> Figure adapted by Unger EM

