



Académie de droit international humanitaire
et de droits humains à Genève
Geneva academy of international humanitarian law
and human rights



THE GLOBAL LAND GRAB: A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
16 May 2009

9.45 Introduction

10.00 The large scale acquisition of foreign agricultural land: causes and consequences

Moderators: Zoë Goodman, 3D → Trade - Human Rights - Equitable Economy and Michael Windfuhr, Brot für die Welt

- **The Global Land Grab: trends and drivers**
 - Lorenzo Cotula, International Institute for Environment and Development
- **The formation of the Collectif Pour la Défense des Terres Malgaches: local and national consequences of land grabbing**
 - Ralava Beboarimisa, Collectif Pour la Défense des Terres Malgaches
- **Threats to human rights: failing to uphold State obligations**
 - Nicola Colbran, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (focussing on the right to food and the right to water)

11.00 Coffee

11.30 The deals governing the trend

Moderator: Carole Samdup, Rights & Democracy

- **The potential effects of the deals on human rights**
 - Luke Eric Peterson, Investment Arbitration Reporter (focussing on bilateral investment treaties)
 - Kavaljit Singh, Public Interest Research Centre (focussing on deals involving sovereign wealth funds)

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Responses to the global land grab

Moderators: Claire Mahon and Christophe Golay, Joint Coordinators, Project on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- **Smallholder farmers' resistance: examples from South East Asia**
 - Arsenio Pereira Da Silva, Sustainable Agriculture Network Timor Leste and La Via Campesina
- **Can this trend benefit land users?**
 - Michael Taylor, International Land Coalition
- **Rights-based approaches and communities' access to land**
 - Lucy Royal-Dawson, Equalinrights

14.30 - 14.40 Break

- **Extra-territorial obligations in the context of land grabbing**
 - Prof. Sigrun Skogly, Lancaster University Law School
 - Sofia Monsalve Suárez, FoodFirst Information and Action Network (FIAN)
- **Reflections from UN human rights experts**
 - Prof. Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur on the right to food
 - Prof. Eibe Riedel, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

15.30 Coffee

16.00 Open discussion

Moderators: Claire Mahon and Christophe Golay

Key questions:

- **How might investment houses acquiring agricultural land be held accountable?**
- **How could States that have not signed international human rights covenants be held to account?**
- **How can States with serious food production problems secure future food supplies in ways that do not undermine human rights in other countries?**

Conclusions

- Carin Smaller, International Institute for Sustainable Development

17.00 Close