

Glossary

These simplified definitions are intended to clarify the text in this document.

Cadastre: a register of property showing the extent, value and ownership of land.

Customary Land Tenure: the communal possession of rights to use and allocate land by a group sharing the same cultural identity or established by customary practice

Due diligence: a process of research and analysis in any given situation to avoid harm to other persons or property

Land Tenure: the set of relationships with respect to housing and land, established through statutory law or customary, informal or religious arrangements

Security of Tenure: the degree of confidence that land users will not be arbitrarily deprived of the rights they enjoy over land or the benefits that flow from it

Statutory Land Tenure: established by law or statutes — they consist of two main types, private and public tenure systems, and can guarantee individual or collective rights

Statutory Law: legal rules issued by the state authority which, depending on the state structure can emanate from the national, regional or local authorities (also sometimes referred to as “formal state law”)

Religious law: legal rules that emanate from a religious authority and/or are part of texts seen as divine

Tenure arrangements: sets of documented and undocumented practices, rules and institutions which determine access to and control over housing, land and natural resources