

TOPIC 1: Indigenous Communities and Land Restitution after Armed Conflicts.

1. Ownership is acknowledged as fundamental constitutional right, which is required to live with dignity. Consequently, this right needs protection especially for minorities and vulnerable groups.

Property of indigenous or native communities is an open topic, which has not been fully guaranteed. Thus States must recognize the individual and collective rights of these communities, implementing appropriate public policies.

2. A variety of social conflicts have arisen in many countries, which have forced many citizens to abandon their land and move to other areas. This has led to the State or third parties taking over these vacant plots.

3. Transparent and efficient procedures are needed in both the regulation of indigenous communities and land taken over at the end of conflicts. This is required to facilitate the access to the Land Registry of land claims and restitution procedures.

The Land Registry plays an important role to restore ownership of the previous registered parties. Where there is no previous entry, new simplified recovery procedures need to be implemented to ensure a proper and clear identification of entitlements. This will also help in the valuation and marketability of the property.

Each system will establish the requirements and documents needed for the registration. The registration of native titles will not damage the principles of the registrations system. The land registry must be flexible and adaptable to the different type of aboriginal or native titles.

The integrity of the Land Registry must be protected in order to reflect the reality.