

To RSVP, or for more information, please contact:
Claire Biason Lohier / +1 202 297 9573 / cbiason@rightsandresources.org
Anne-Marie Schryer-Roy / +254 727 305 525 / aschryer-roy@burness.com

*****MEDIA ADVISORY *****

Panel Event on Land Tenure, Investment Risk, and Political Stability
9:30 UTC, Thursday 9 February 2017, Radisson Blu Hotel, Dakar, Senegal

New Research to be Released at Dakar Event Will Reveal Causes of Costly Conflict for Investors and Governments Across Africa

Global experts on investment risk and land tenure will point to Africa's record for high-cost land disputes as well as specific obstacles and solutions for a continent hungry for investments

As the world takes stock of the political and economic disturbances of the past year—including political upheaval in the Gambia, southern Senegal, and Mali, as well as concerns in the North over Brexit, the ongoing refugee crisis, a looming climate crisis, and the election of Donald Trump—political stability has become increasingly important to companies, investors, and governments across the world who are looking for ways to minimize risks and secure their investments.

Most recently, the World Economic Forum acknowledged that inequality is driving political turbulence worldwide. There is now growing awareness that governments and the investors who fund development projects in Africa and other resource-rich regions must find new ways to address the concerns of local peoples affected by their plans for hydropower plants, agro-industrial plantations, mining operations, and other projects that occupy huge swaths of land. Many of these communities have inhabited the land for centuries, but lack formal legal rights to their homes.

This event—held for the first time in Africa—will feature the release of new findings concerning the principle causes of land conflict encountered by development projects in West Africa, East Africa, and Southern Africa, revealing why they happen and where, and suggesting how they might be addressed and even prevented.

The event will bring to Dakar the Prime Minister of Senegal, representatives from governments across Africa, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples' organizations, as well as leaders of companies and investment organizations. Top experts in business risk analysis will release their findings, and the Rights and Resources Initiative will present its annual review on the state of indigenous and rural peoples land and resource rights globally.

The conflict research, based on an in-depth review of 37 case studies from West, East, and Southern Africa, will provide new insight concerning what makes a project likely to trigger social conflict, suggesting they follow predictable and quantifiable patterns of location, terrain, and other factors.

The panelists—including the leadership of national land commissions in Kenya, Liberia, and Senegal—will be available immediately after the panel for interviews. **Embargoed materials are available on request.**

WHO:

- Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal and/or Minister
- Moustapha Sourang – President, National Land Commission of Senegal (CNRF)
- Babacar Diop – National Council for Rural Consultation and Cooperation (CNCR)
- Cheikh Oumar Ba – Executive Director, Agricultural and Rural Initiative (IPAR)
- Fibian Lukalo – Kenya National Land Commission
- Stanley Toe – Liberia National Land Commission
- Lou Munden, Founder, TMP Systems
- Suleiman Kiggundu, Regional Director for Africa, CDC Group
- Andy White – President, Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)
- Solange Bandiaky-Badji, Africa Director, Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)

WHAT:

- International event on the Global State of Rights and Resources, *From Risk and Conflict to Peace and Prosperity in Africa*
- Release of new research on the link between land-related investment and conflict in Africa

WHERE:

Radisson Blu Hotel, Dakar Sea Plaza, Dakar, Senegal

WHEN:

Panel: From Risk and Conflict to Peace and Prosperity in Africa

9:30 a.m - 12:00 p.m. UTC, 9 February 2017

- Press Availabilities: 10:30 UTC, 9 February 2017

Panel: Land Reform Processes in Africa, Challenges and Opportunities

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. UTC, 9 February 2017

###

Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)

The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) is a global coalition consisting of 15 Partners, 6 Affiliated Networks, 14 International Fellows, and more than 150 collaborating international, regional, and community organizations dedicated to advancing the forestland and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. RRI leverages the capacity and expertise of coalition members to promote secure local land and resource rights and catalyze progressive policy and market reforms. For more information, please visit www.rightsandresources.org.