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SYNTHESE

**SUMMARY OF THE STUDY ENTITLED “PROMOTING
PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH BALANCED
LAND GOVERNANCE IN**

MALI

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SUMMARY OF THE STUDY ENTITLED “PROMOTING PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH BALANCED LAND GOVERNANCE IN

Dr Lamine Doumbia's study addresses various issues related to land conflicts in Mali, particularly in rural areas. It highlights the importance of understanding land conflicts and their role in underlying conflicts in rural areas. The study also highlights the challenges related to the use of the Latin alphabet to transcribe Mandinka languages and the cultural and epistemological agreements and disagreements associated with this issue. Additionally, it mentions the involvement of various organizations and individuals, such as the Union of Associations and Coordination for the Defence and Development of the Rights of the Disadvantaged, in promoting land rights and resolving conflicts related to land ownership. The study aims to propose alternative solutions for peace in Mali by examining the complexities of land practices in rural and urban areas, which often lead to social conflicts and hinder community cohesion and prosperity.

Through three questions distributed across three axes, the synthesis of Dr Lamine Doumbia's study revolves around the following inquiries:

1. What are the main issues related to land governance in Mali ?
2. How can land conflicts impact development and peace in rural areas ?
3. What alternative solutions are proposed to resolve land conflicts and promote peace in Mali ?

Axis 1: What are the main issues related to land governance in Mali ?

The main issues related to land governance in Mali are as follows:

1. Adaptation of land legislation and regulations to the institutional, socio-political and economic context.
2. Harmonization of state and land management with sectoral development policies.
3. Mastery of property and land management using appropriate tools.
4. Social mobilization strategy for consensual and peaceful property and land management, as well as strengthening the capacities of services.
5. Complexity of rural and urban land practices, leading to conflicts and impasses affecting social cohesion and community prosperity.
6. Necessity to revise the land and domain code to formalize regulation of customary land rights and establish rural commissions for managing rural concessions.

These issues underline the importance of rethinking land governance in Mali to ensure sustainable, equitable and peaceful development.

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Axis 2: How can land conflicts impact development and peace in rural areas ?

Land conflicts can have a significant impact on development and peace in rural areas for the following reasons:

1. Land conflicts can lead to disputes between investors and agropastoral producers, leading to land grabbing, evictions to urban areas and the marginalization of women in terms of access to land resources.
2. Land tensions can be exacerbated by socio-economic and political factors, thus contributing to inter- and intra-community conflicts.
3. The land issue is often at the heart of claims by self-defense groups, separatist rebels and jihadist groups, which can lead to violence to defend their rights and cultural identities.
4. The militarization of land tensions in rural areas can aggravate armed conflicts and compromise the security of local populations.
5. Land conflicts can disrupt agricultural and pastoral activities, thereby affecting the food security and livelihoods of rural communities.

In short, land conflicts can hinder the socio-economic development of rural areas, compromise social cohesion and stability, and threaten peace in these regions.

Axis 3: What alternative solutions are proposed to resolve land conflicts and promote peace in Mali?

To resolve land conflicts and promote peace in Mali, several alternative solutions are proposed:

1. Establishment of appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks, such as the revised State and Land Code, the law on decentralization and local authorities, the agricultural orientation law, the General States of Land, the agricultural land law, the adoption village land commissions, and the digital identification decree of plots, to regulate land governance and guarantee the rights of populations.
2. Strengthening land governance by promoting the participation of local stakeholders and establishing mechanisms for consultation and resolution of land conflicts.
3. Promotion of gender equity in land governance by guaranteeing women's access to land and recognizing their role in socio-economic production.
4. Raising public awareness of land issues, sustainable management of natural resources and peaceful resolution of conflicts.
5. Capacity building of local authorities and land usufruct holders for better land management and equitable distribution of land resources.
6. Promotion of social justice in the management of natural and land resources to prevent violent conflicts and promote social cohesion.

By adopting these alternative solutions, Mali can progress towards more balanced land governance, promoting sustainable development and the consolidation of peace and social justice in rural areas.