

Changing Land Reforms and Conflict Over Land in Sub-Saharan Africa

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ABSTRACT Among other issues, right to property and settlement have been the major causes of conflicts in Africa, especially with regard to land and land resources, which is perceived as a common holding that binds generations past, present and future together. Unfortunately, this notion about land is either rarely or not considered in the process of land reforms. There have been series of redefinition of right to land in various countries of the continent, to the extent that there are confusions regarding what the standards are, culminating in pressures and contestations over land between and betwixt groups. This paper presents the African conceptualization of land and importance of land to the people, the philosophy underpinning land reforms by African leaders, and how the implementation of these reforms generate conflicts.