

Document:	<u>EB 2008/95/R.53</u>
Agenda:	<u>20</u>
Date:	<u>4 November 2008</u>
Distribution:	<u>Public</u>
Original:	<u>English</u>

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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

## **Report of the secretariat of the International Land Coalition**

Executive Board — Ninety-fifth Session  
Rome, 15-17 December 2008

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For: **Information**

## **Note to Executive Board Directors**

This document is submitted for the information of the Executive Board.

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## Report of the secretariat of the International Land Coalition

1. The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organizations working together to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men through advocacy, dialogue and capacity-building. IFAD hosts the ILC secretariat, is a member of the Coalition and is currently the co-chair of the ILC Council.
2. In 2006, IFAD commissioned an external evaluation of ILC. The evaluation confirmed the continuing relevance of the Coalition's mandate and recommended a series of institutional reforms aimed at building ILC into a more member-led coalition and lessening dependence on IFAD as the host of the secretariat.
3. Based on the findings of the external evaluation, in April 2007 the Coalition's members approved the ILC Action Plan. Concurrently, IFAD set in place a series of six-monthly milestones to be achieved during the period of its 2007-2008 grant to ILC. The background and overall aims of the grant are set forth in document EB 2006/89/R.36, "IFAD's plan for its future relationship with the International Land Coalition". A report on the achievements of institutional milestones was presented at the Executive Board in September 2008 (EB 2008/94/INF.5).
4. ILC has made significant progress during 2007 and 2008 in implementing the key recommendations of the external evaluation. Its institutional transformation places it in a stronger position to fulfil its mandate, and it has achieved greater involvement of members, reduced financial dependence on IFAD and more focused impact.
5. The attached report, prepared by the ILC secretariat, complements document EB 2008/94/INF.5.

# Report submitted by the Secretariat of the International Land Coalition

## I. Introduction

1. Recent global trends are prompting a massive increase in global commercial interest in land and natural resources. Rising food and commodity prices, accelerating agrofuel production, and carbon-trading mechanisms that place a commercial value on standing forests are converging to cause steep increases in demand for land and in land values. This is creating new opportunities but also unprecedented pressures on land resources and tensions on land tenure systems. Those most vulnerable to losing access to land are small-scale producers (1.5 billion living on plots of less than 2 hectares) who do not have formal tenure over the land that they use, and indigenous peoples, pastoralists and fishers. These groups are also the primary target of IFAD's programmes.
2. Behind the crisis of food security lies a deeper and more structural crisis that may make it many times harder for the world's 862 million hungry people to escape from hunger – a crisis of land tenure security that may result in millions losing their access to land and to natural resources.
3. Now, more than ever, there is a “need for effective mechanisms that encourage and foster dialogue about land issues. Dialogue is particularly needed given the fact that land issues tend to be not only technical questions, but issues with highly sensitive political and social implications. This presents a very positive context for an organization like ILC, whose mission and objectives seem to be even more relevant today than they were a decade ago.”<sup>1</sup>

## II. Achievements

4. Following the external evaluation conducted in 2006, ILC has been undergoing a process of institutional transformation entailing significant changes in its functioning, as summarized in the annex to document EB 2008/94/INF.5.
  5. The reform of the institutional structures led to the development and implementation of the ILC Strategic Framework 2007-2011: Putting a Pro-Poor Land Agenda into Practice. Some of the major achievements are presented below.
- ILC has realigned existing programmes to new strategic directions**
6. Members have defined ILC's role and programming areas in a clearer, more focused and more integrated way. Operating and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, approved by the ILC Council in April 2008, have provided the basis for revising the secretariat's structure and realigning its functions. They also define the ILC management cycle, which is being implemented from September 2008.
  7. The institutional reform has been very demanding on the members and secretariat of ILC. Nonetheless, the Coalition has continued to implement approved programmes and activities, and to plan and implement new activities aligned with its new strategic directions.
  8. Key programmatic achievements are presented in this report according to ILC's main core activities as defined by its strategic framework 2007-2011.

### **Policy dialogue and advocacy**

9. ILC has placed a greater emphasis on national policy processes in selected countries. In Madagascar, for example, it has supported the building of a civil society platform – Solidarité des Intervenants sur le Foncier (SIF). SIF represents trade unions, NGOs and farmers' federations and organizations countrywide, and is

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<sup>1</sup> International Land Coalition External Evaluation – 2006.

now recognized by the Government and development partners as a legitimate partner in the ongoing national land reform. Similar Land Alliances for National Development (LAND partnerships) are operational in Benin, Bolivia, Honduras, the Niger, the Philippines and Uganda, and with the joint African Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, African Development Bank initiative to produce continental land policy guidelines.

10. ILC has given priority to some key themes for global advocacy, with members' implementing key related actions. Themes include:
- **Women's access to land.** In collaboration with research institute partners, ILC is undertaking an action-research programme leading to advocacy with 15 grass-roots organizations in Eastern and Southern Africa.
  - **Territorial rights of indigenous people and pastoralists.** ILC supported a delegation to strengthen the profile of land issues in the 2007 United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. An issues paper on pastoralist land rights and climate change has also been produced in consultation with members.
  - **Global monitoring of pro-poor access to land.** ILC is facilitating members' monitoring of equitable access to land, with a view to consolidating data into a global report. This is already operational on a regional level with the Land Watch Asia campaign, an observatory for monitoring pro-poor land tenure of countries in the region set up by the ILC regional node in Asia.
  - **New commercial pressure on land.** Building on members' work, ILC developed an issues paper that was used as a basis for members to lobby at the third implementation cycle of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16) and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). As a result, the outcome statements of both events contained a stronger recognition that access to land is central to sustainable development.

#### **Knowledge management and capacity-building**

11. In Latin America, a recently established research committee of ILC members is developing regional research projects on agrofuel production and climate change; changes in land use, land value and food prices; changes in farmers' and indigenous households' livelihood strategies; land governance changes and their impact on land tenancy systems and dynamics; and interlinked rights in forestry, agrarian, coastal and indigenous lands.
12. A peer-to-peer capacity-building programme is being set up on participatory mapping and legal empowerment for solving land conflicts. A regional internship programme has also been launched to reinforce exchange among members (four internships in 2008).
13. An ILC global series, *Knowledge for Change*, has been launched with the publication of the following:
- Common Ground. The challenges to developing inclusive land policies;
  - Mobile livelihoods, patchy resources and shifting rights: approaching pastoral territories;
  - Securing Common Property Regimes in a Globalizing World;
  - Working at the boundaries: International Land Coalition's engagement with the land rights of indigenous peoples and their neighbours;

- Participatory Mapping as a tool for empowerment: Experiences and lessons learned from the ILC network.
14. ILC is implementing a new communication strategy with a special focus on generating and sharing knowledge. It has also redesigned and upgraded its newsletter, web page and corporate brochure to reflect its new institutional profile.

### **Governance**

15. The achievements in this area have been presented in detail in document EB 2008/94/INF.5 and in the above paragraphs. A road map for change during 2008-2011 has been produced and will serve as the basis for evaluating the Coalition's institutional performance over the course of its current strategic framework.
16. Following a call for membership in 2007, the ILC Council admitted 28 new members, bringing membership to 65. New member organizations include previously underrepresented categories such as farmers' organizations and research institutes. A new ILC membership strategy was approved by the April 2008 ILC Council.
17. Greater ownership by members has been achieved. A number of members' working groups have been established for institutional processes (the Strategic Framework Committee, the Membership Committee, the Selection Committee for the new ILC secretariat director, etc.). In addition, the number of ILC members representing ILC at global advocacy events (CSD-16, ECOSOC, etc.) has risen.
18. Three regional meetings were held in 2007 to develop regional strategies and priorities for programming by members. Regional committees of ILC members have been established and three regional nodes have been identified. Currently the regional nodes are based in the Kenya Land Alliance, for Africa; Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales (Peru), for Latin America; and Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (Philippines), for Asia. Each regional node hosts a regional coordinator with decentralized secretariat functions. The operating framework defines roles that should remain with the secretariat and those that should devolve to the regions.

## **III. Conclusions**

19. Under the direction of the 2008 Assembly of Members, with the active oversight and involvement of the ILC Council and the facilitation of the secretariat, ILC has made significant progress towards the institutional transformation envisaged in its action plan, meeting the milestones set in IFAD's plan for its future relationship with the Coalition. This has included finalizing and implementing strategic, institutional and operational frameworks. The number and diversity of members has increased, as has their role in the Coalition, in particular through the regionalization process in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
20. Through the generation and sharing of land knowledge and the role played at national, regional and global levels, ILC has proved itself to be a highly important reference network able to link land with rural poverty in fast-changing global and regional contexts. There is growing recognition that responses current crises such as global food insecurity and global deterioration of environmental capital cannot be adequate if land issues are not given a central place.

## Implementation schedule for the ILC Action Plan and results achieved by December 2008

<i>Triggers and milestones</i>	<i>2007</i>			<i>2008</i>			<i>Comments</i>
Action Plan approved	•						
Strategic Framework 2007-2011 approved	•						
Resource mobilization strategy approved	•						
Legal identity approved			•				Under a resolution of November 2007, the ILC Council determined that ILC was an autonomous institution that derived its identity from its members. The Coalition is therefore recognized as being independent from IFAD, the host of its secretariat. In defining the Coalition as an independent entity, the resolution also notes that the secretariat does not have an independent identity, but draws on the legal personality of the host organization.
Registration procedures authorized and activated			•				
Registration of legal identity completed					•		
Revisions of the governance structure approved						◦	Revision of Constitution to be approved by December 2008 ILC Council and to be validated by the Assembly of Members in April 2009.
New business and housing agreement approved and activated with IFAD						◦	To be finalized before IFAD's December session of the Board.
Results-based programme of work agreed with IFAD and Council	•	•			•		Operating and monitoring and evaluation frameworks approved by ILC Council.
Funding by other donors of overall budget at 65 per cent level						•	Target significantly exceeded: 79 per cent of funding from non-IFAD sources (source: IFAD Financial Services Division).
Funding of administrative portion at 50 per cent level						•	Target significantly exceeded: 65 per cent of administrative portion funded from non-IFAD sources (source: IFAD Financial Services Division).