



## International Land Coalition

**Global Assembly 2005**

**Land is Life**

**Secure access to land helps reduce poverty**

Santa Cruz, Bolivia - 19 – 23 March 2005

### Working Groups

## GROUP A

### **Related thematic section:**

#### Reviewing, Reforming and Revitalizing Land Policies

Governmental institutions, community-based/civil-society organizations and the private sector represent key actors that need to be engaged in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of the policies and related legislative and regulatory systems governing land access and use.

### **Working group section**

#### Creating Opportunities for Participation and Dialogue

Fostering participation in national land policy formulation, implementation and monitoring, including regulatory, legal, policy and institutional factors.

Effective participation by rural peoples' organizations depends on strengthening their capacity and the willingness of governments to establish consensual processes for the formulation of land policies.

### **Goals of working group activity**

1. Facilitate active discussion by the participants and an exchange of ideas.
2. Create opportunity to understand common points of view and differences of opinion regarding these issues as well as working methodologies to address
3. Create opportunity to build up relationships with other organizations which could help in your work and assist you to understand the challenges to maintaining these relationships.
4. Identify specific actions or ways in which the Coalition could support communication, partnership, networking, or knowledge exchange, based on these themes.

### **What you should produce**

- Your working group will give a presentation to the whole assembly which will afford an opportunity to share ideas, points of agreement and differences of opinion as well as recommendations and suggestions for moving forward.
- Notes and a written summary should be prepared to help share your ideas with other organizations in the Coalition's network, to create alternatives for sharing knowledge and strengthening networks at both global and regional levels. Let's promote new ways of thinking!

**Group Members:**

1. NLC - Buti Chakache
2. Land Net West Africa – Hubert Ouedraogo
3. STAR Kampuchea – Nhek Sarin
4. MODE – Bharat Shrestha
5. ANGOC – Don Marquez
6. CONGCOOP – Helmer Velásquez
7. AR Now! – Ernie Lim
8. Kenya Land Alliance – Odenda Lumumba
9. HARDI – Patrick Rasolofo
10. Bread for the World – Tamela Walhof
11. NEF –Yacouba Déme
12. Global Mechanism – Antonio Medina Netto
13. COCOCH – Santos Aquileo Alvares Reyes
14. Bolivian NGO
15. IFAD – Harold Liverage
16. IFAD – Sappho Haralambous
17. ILC - Jing Delarosa
18. ILC- Julie Carle

**KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE WORKING GROUPS**

- What are the most important lessons learned that you consider constitute usable knowledge for sharing with others? Which are the most relevant challenges you have faced on this issue?
- What are the requisite minimum conditions to achieve an effective dialogue process? How can the “momentum” be maintained in order to achieve “victory”?
- How can we work together to obtain these conditions and what should be the Coalition’s role.

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## **WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION:**

### ***Dialogue and political processes***

All land-related institutions at the national level must be involved in a dialogue. Preconditions are necessary to achieve real dialogue. For example, all participants need to be suitably equipped (pre workshops) and fully informed (studies and qualified information). In Burkina Faso it has been possible to influence WB with appropriate actions taken before the commencement of dialogue (studies and research).

Rural people, including women, need to be engaged at the national level policy dialogue, especially in the most marginalized communities.

Action has to be built up first at the community level and then at district, regional and national levels. Effective facilitation is essential in working with communities to identify interest groups and land users as well as a common interest for the broad community. Vested interests have to be clear.

At the outset it is advisable to work separately with each group and subsequently bring the groups together. At the higher level there is a risk of the people's voice being manipulated by political parties. This bottom-up approach is crucial in dangerous countries such as Cambodia.

Even if the policy revision has been formulated and improved with the CSO contribution (Pastoralist law in Mali) it is most important to follow the process and to monitor and evaluate the subsequent implementation.

How to measure political impact?

### ***Issues to be raised in a political dialogue around land issues:***

- How to conciliate customary and legal laws;
- land and support services (no sense only land);
- urgent need for conflict resolution on common resources between, farmers and indigenous peoples.
- family agriculture.

### ***Elements of a political strategy***

Strategy should be formulated on the basis of sound arguments and a clear idea of target groups to benefit from the policy making.

Land is not only the problem of peasants. Broader alliances need to be built up, other than those with farmers groups. Broader solidarity is crucial to achieving significant change (Platform).

Strong social movements are important in achieving effective mobilization. Radical social groups are not able to implement effective projects and this can affect the social movement.

In cases where the CSO community is very fragmented, work on convergence strategies of civil society, religious and farmers groups is most important.

The role of farmers and landless groups and that of NGO's is different in the context of political issues around land.

**National lobby:** *Executive governance structure.* Farmers' groups and peasants' organizations should have political representation and adopt positions in congress. Lobbying is crucial to establishing agreement prior to achieving consensus. It is important to understand the type of governance and that State does not hold a unique position. Partnership and alliances need to be established even when the space left open by governmental institutions is very narrow, key people need to be identified.

**International lobby:** WB and UE. An international forum on agrarian reform will help to support the social movements.

Considering the capacity of USA to influence decision-making at both the international and national levels, an effective strategy and commitment is vital to build up awareness within the US Congress and to educate the electorate in key districts and key states, in order to influence Senators.

USAID and CIDA bilateral cooperation gloss over vested interests.

#### **ILC role**

- Important messages and statements are useful sources of information at grass-roots level in the USA;
- improve communication, share experiences and strengthen NGOs platforms.
- collect and share interesting experiences;
- influence WB and UE;
- reciprocal commitment on the land issue in the fight for poor people. Building-up trust;
- support regional networks and facilitate the interaction with IGOs at the regional level.

#### **CSOs requests:**

- To be suitably equipped for moving from position of agitation and claim to sound proposals;
- support in defining effective strategies,
- peasant federations should train beneficiary families on land matters in order to build up awareness,
- support in perseverance during law suits.

	<b>Local</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>Global</b>
<b>Lessons Learned</b>	<p>With crisis (Mitch hurricane) sought commonalities with other sectors which led to solidarity and unity between sectors</p> <p>Engaged peasants ahead of time</p> <p>Established social movements</p>	<p>? Led to national dialogue</p> <p>Alliances with broader rural development NGOs including peasants, churches, producers</p> <p>Strong social movements can bring agrarian reform to the forefront and force more feedback from government</p>	<p>Deal with the World Bank to engage in a debate with prepared studies, present alternative policies</p> <p>Connecting with other neighbouring countries and regions for exchange of mechanisms and depth of analysis of world agrarian policies</p>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revolution/people power</li> <li>- Peasant movements not prepared to enter into policy, law and implementation</li> <li>- Desperation in rural areas led to migration to cities</li> <li>- Lack of understanding of commonalities between AR and other sectors</li> </ul>	<p>? Competitive position between social movements and policy advocacy</p> <p>Red tape led to land titles prohibitive</p> <p>Engaging peasants not having the same capacity to prepare what needs to be especially prepared to achieve a meaningful participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frustration of the impact of US policies on the developing world</li> <li>- Convincing local and international groups that AR is a global issue</li> </ul>
<b>Conditions</b>	<p>Awareness raising with US public</p>	<p>Awareness, sympathetic US public and increased solidarity to impact US policy</p> <p>Targeting of decision-making government departments (i.e., Finance) with actions</p> <p>Executive lobbying with national parliaments</p>	<p>Local people needed to impact accountability at all levels</p> <p>Cooperation with international groups and NGOs to advance peasant agenda internationally</p>
<b>Priority Issues</b>		<p>Countries undertaking land reforms, i.e., Africa, Eastern Europe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Family agriculture</li> <li>- Using ILC to bring marginalized voices to the international debates/fora (i.e. donors)</li> </ul>