How can ILC members engage in regional and global policy processes?

» Shape ILC’s common policy messages;
» Participate in regional and global policy events;
» Engage in the global initiatives of ILC.
Shape ILC’s common policy messages

What type of common policy messages does ILC produce?

Common policy messages and declarations are the voice of ILC and its members in policy fora, debates, and discussions. They shape ILC’s work and are of guidance to Members and Partners who adhere to ILC values and promote the vision that secure and equitable access to and control over land reduces poverty and contributes to identity, dignity, and inclusion.

In a coalition with members as diverse as those in ILC, it is important to be clear on the points of agreement. It is often hard to define consensus, but where it is achieved, it is particularly powerful as it represents a common policy message developed by a wide range of organisations, representing diverse constituencies, priorities, and expertise. As a result ILC messages and declarations are often referred to by many different actors.

Policy messages developed through the ILC can; endorse a common understanding of an issue; take a common position on specific issues or processes; and even propose joint commitments for action – refer to box 2.

ILC may produce common policy messages relating to specific regional or global policy processes, for instance the Post-2015 Development Agenda. More frequently, however, the ILC uses the opportunity of the Regional and Global Assemblies of Members to formulate common policy messages, that articulate ILC policy positions beyond the common vision of the Coalition, as illustrated in Box 1.

BOX1:
ILC’s role in shaping the first globally agreed definition of land grabbing (2011)

In the Tirana Declaration of ILC members in 2011, ILC members spoke out against, and defined “land grabbing” as such:

We denounce all forms of land grabbing, whether international or national. We denounce local-level land grabs, particularly by powerful local elites, within communities or among family members. We denounce large-scale land grabbing, which has accelerated hugely over the past three years, and which we define as acquisitions or concessions that are one or more of the following:

(i) in violation of human rights, particularly the equal rights of women; (ii) not based on free, prior and informed consent of the affected land-users; (iii) not based on a thorough assessment, or are in disregard of social, economic and environmental impacts, including the way they are gendered; (iv) not based on transparent contracts that specify clear and binding commitments about activities, employment and benefits sharing, and; (v) not based on effective democratic planning, independent oversight and meaningful participation.

The fact that this definition was commonly adopted within the ILC network, across civil society and Inter-Governmental Organisations, made it acceptable and useful to a wide variety of organisations.

Since 2011, many organisations and researchers, even outside of the ILC, have used this definition of land-grabbing. It has been useful in allowing an easily-polarised debate to move forward without becoming mired in definitional issues.
Get involved in the elaboration of Regional Declarations!
It is common practice for Regional Assemblies of Members to set up a Declaration Committee. Composition of these committees are meant to reflect the diverse nature of the ILC, with balanced representation of constituencies and gender, whilst ensuring continuous communication with other Members.

Each Declaration Committee receives relevant background information, meets, and proposes a text for consideration by the ILC Regional Assembly of Members, where the declaration is discussed and endorsed by consensus.

Get involved in the elaboration of Global Declarations!
Global declarations are developed in a similar manner to the regions, although with the greater challenge of encompassing the wider representation. Global Declaration Committees are established during the Global Assembly of Members and include the Chairs of the ILC Coalition Council.

The Regional Assemblies of Members, caucus of intergovernmental organisations, and caucus of global civil society organisations are asked to propose two names for the Committee each (including the two Chairs of the ILC Coalition Council), with up to a maximum of 15 members.

The Global Declaration Committee is also encouraged to reflect the diverse nature of ILC membership with balanced representation of constituencies and gender.

How are common policy messages and declarations based on the work of ILC and its members?
Common policy messages and declarations are directly influenced by ILC members’ experiences and are a reflection of ongoing projects, lessons learnt, and discussions on how to best achieve people-centred land governance.

Declarations also build on background information submitted to the Declaration Committees, including policy messages from ILC National Engagement Strategies (NES) and other ad hoc common policy messages.

The interconnectedness of developing and refining common policy messages and declarations helps to progressively clarify, enlarge and deepen ILC positions.

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**BOX2: Committing ILC Members to People-Centred Land Governance**

In the *Antigua Declaration* of 2013, ILC members made a ‘Commitment to Action’ based on ten priorities to achieve ‘People-Centred land Governance’. These ten priorities provide for the first time a common framework for action that can guide ILC members operationally in working towards our common vision.

The Voluntary Guidelines adopted by the Committee for World Food Security and the Framework and Guidelines adopted by African Heads of State, provide broad parameters for good land governance and policy. Within this, ILC members are able to mobilise together around those specific issues that they have defined as particularly critical for meeting the needs of those living in poverty.
Participate in regional and global policy events

**Why is it important for members to participate in international events?**
Policy events offer opportunities for ILC members to:
- share their knowledge and experience
- give visibility to their work to a wider audience
- network with other organisations working towards the same goals.

**How are the events prioritised?**
Each year, the ILC Secretariat prepares a calendar of relevant policy events, identifying the major policy processes and events relevant to promoting people-centred land governance, while also being open and taking advantage of ad hoc opportunities.

**What kind of support does ILC offer?**
ILC provides full or part sponsorship for travel and related costs. The secretariat can discuss in detail how to support the participation of a member by providing feedback on members’ presentations, and connecting members attending the same event that are working on similar issues.

**How are members selected for sponsorship?**
For the majority of cases, invitations to attend events are extended to members who can participate on behalf of the ILC, unless the Secretariat is being explicitly invited to play a facilitator role or provide a specific perspective. The Secretariat and relevant Regional Coordination Units (RCU) are jointly responsible for identifying participants. This is done through an open call either to all members, members in a specific region, or members working on specific issues, depending on the policy event or process in question. The criteria for selection is included in the open call, to which members must respond with a motivation letter. The Secretariat, RCUs and event organiser will then appoint the member most suitable for participation, based on the predefined criteria.

Important criteria include:
- geographical and gender balance
- the extent to which members have previously engaged in ILC activities and attended policy events or processes on behalf of ILC
In some instances, focal organisations appointed by regional platforms may be prioritised to participate in policy events in order to provide a regional ILC perspective. For events that are linked to ongoing policy processes, members may be sponsored to participate in more than one of the events.

**What are the member’s responsibilities when sponsored by ILC?**

If a member participates in an event on behalf of ILC, the participant is encouraged to consult with other members, in the country, region, or with those working on similar issues, and to use the information received to prepare presentations that provide an overview of the work or position of ILC rather than focusing solely on the member’s own work. Upon request, the Secretariat and RCUs are available to facilitate these consultations and to assist with the preparation of presentations and policy documents.

If the member is sponsored to participate in policy events or processes, the participant must complete a travel summary report to share details about their experience for ILC’s records. The member is also encouraged to write a short blog post to share more widely with the ILC network and beyond their experiences, challenges, lessons learnt, which will then be translated into the other official ILC languages (English, Spanish and French) and posted on the website. The Secretariat is available to provide suggestions on how to structure a blog post and give feedback on drafts.

**What if the member is already engaged in the process, without sponsorship by ILC?**

If the member is already participating in a policy event in its own capacity, the Secretariat is available to connect this member to other members attending the same event. The Secretariat can also give visibility to the member’s efforts by sharing information through ILC channels and to discuss any other forms of support.

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3 http://www.landcoalition.org/en/blog
Engage in the Global Initiatives of ILC

What is a Global Initiative?
Global Initiatives of the ILC are built around themes that ILC members have defined as important for collaborative action.

As of the 2014-15 planning cycle, Global Initiatives of ILC address the following themes:
» Women’s Land Rights
» Commercial Pressures on Land
» Human Rights Defenders on Land
» Community Land Rights
» Rangeland Tenure
» Territorial Rights of Indigenous Peoples

How are Global Initiatives decided?
Members are the driving force in setting Global Initiatives. As members’ priorities change, existing Global Initiatives can be phased out, or new ones developed. Regional platforms of decide on regional priorities, which could then develop into global initiatives if the same priorities start emerging across different regions.

How can members get involved?
If you are an ILC member interested in getting involved, you could:
» Propose regional activities that link with Global Initiatives during regional work-planning meetings;
» Respond to calls for proposals relating to specific Global Initiatives;
» Contact the ILC Secretariat focal point or other members who are playing a lead role in the Initiative to get direct advice or information;
» Take part in activities that are launched and open to all members, such as consultations, training and research.

How are Global Initiatives coordinated and supported?
The overall planning and budget responsibility for Global Initiatives falls with the Global Secretariat, and specifically, the Global Policy and Technical Support Unit. However, in line with the general decentralisation of support structures of ILC, the Regional Coordination Units (RCUs) are playing an increasingly important role in directly supporting the regional dimensions of Global Initiatives.

The ILC secretariat will not accept unsolicited requests to fund projects that are related to Global Initiatives. These should rather emerge through the established regional work planning procedures.
Linking Global Initiatives to members’ work and priorities at country level
Global initiatives of ILC are meant to provide a wide range of opportunities for members within the context of ILC priority areas. The coordination of global initiatives should therefore be shaped by the needs and priorities of members at country level. If you find this is not the case, please contact the RCU or Secretariat with your suggestions on how they could become more relevant for you.

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The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organisations working together to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men through advocacy, dialogue, and capacity building.