

Call for Expressions of Interest
Consultancy on a Global Study on “*Framing the Debates on Land Governance*”

*The purpose of this announcement is to identify and hire **four (4) consultants** to assist the Secretariat of the International Land Coalition (www.landcoalition.org) in carrying out a global study entitled “*Framing the Debates on Land Governance*”.*

The Secretariat of the International Land Coalition (ILC) is commissioning a global study entitled “*Framing the Debates on Land Governance*” (see ToR below). A consultant team of four (4) members (to be hired individually) will be responsible for the study. The task allocation among the four consultants is as follows:

- The Team Leader will be responsible for the Global Component of the Study and for the final synthesis report.
- Each of the three (3) other consultants will be responsible for one regional component: Africa, Asia or Latin America.

Requirements:

- ✓ All consultants are expected to be familiar with and have proven work experience and publication record on land governance (land reform, land tenure issues) in various parts of the world (for the Team Leader) or in their respective focus regions (for consultants responsible for the regional components).
- ✓ The Team leader is expected to have excellent writing skills in English and a working knowledge of either French or Spanish;
- ✓ The Consultant responsible for the Asia Region should be fluent in English
- ✓ The Consultant responsible for the Africa component should be fluent in either English or French and have a working knowledge of the other language
- ✓ The Consultant responsible for the Latin America component should be fluent in either English or Spanish and have a working knowledge of the other language.

The Study is planned to take place from December 2009 to June 2010. The estimated level of effort varies from 20 to 45 days per consultant, depending on the agreed specific assignment. The remuneration level is negotiable.

Applications should be submitted specifying the consultancy position of interest (team leader or consultant responsible for a regional component), together with a recent CV. The Deadline for receiving the applications is: **November 13, 2009.**

Applications (in English, French or Spanish) should be sent (preferably by Email) to:

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Terms of Reference – *Framing the debates on Land Governance*

30.10.2009

The way land is allocated and managed plays a central role in enabling or hindering economic development, food security, social justice, and environmental sustainability at local, national and global scales. Unsurprisingly, land issues are contentious and politically-charged issues, on which different stakeholders hold strongly divergent views. Understanding the debates and the positions of different actors on key land issues is critical for the work of the International Land Coalition, a network of actors in which a wide spectrum of viewpoints are represented.

This global study entitled “*Framing the debates on Land Governance*” responds to the need for helping interested parties better understand the key topics at the centre of current debates on land governance issues. Land governance is here understood as the formal and informal rules, mechanisms, processes and institutions through which land is accessed, used, controlled, transferred, and land-related conflicts are managed. It encompasses, therefore, land reform, land tenure and administration.

1. Background and justification

The proposed study which seeks to frame on-going and emerging land governance debates builds on, updates and broadens a series of attempts made in the past by the International Land Coalition to better understand the views, perspectives and positions held by the Coalition’s members and other stakeholders on the key issues surrounding land reform, tenure and administration. As part of these past efforts, the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty (which became later the International Land Coalition) co-published a study on civil society perspectives on land issues in 2002¹. A working paper on *An Analysis of Land Policies of Selected International Development Agencies* followed in 2006. ILC civil society members in Asia, Latin America and Africa, have also tried to articulate their views and positions on some of the hotly debated land reform issues. In 2005, ANGOC published a discussion paper on Asian NGO perspectives on agrarian reform and access to land, complemented in 2009 with the publication on *Securing the Right to Land: A CSO Overview on Access to Land in Asia*.

Why this study? Apart from above initiatives, there are a number of other studies that describe and analyse some of the key contentious issues in land reform processes, in many cases articulating the positions, perspectives of civil society and peasants’ movements. Noteworthy among the recent ones are: Rosset et al. 2006²; Binswanger-Mkhize et al, 2009³. While providing in-depth analysis of their areas of focus, these studies are in many cases incomplete in their coverage of key topics in the land governance debates and of the many perspectives on each issue. Moreover, the academic nature of many of these recent studies limits their accessibility to many of the relevant stakeholders.

¹ Ghimire, K. B. 2001. *Whose Land? Civil Society Perspectives on Land Reform and Rural Poverty*. IFAD, The Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty, UNRISD. Rome.

² Rosset, P.; R. Patel; C. Michael. 2006. *Promised Land. Competing Visions of Agrarian Reform*. Food First Books. Oakland.

³ Binswanger-Mkhize; H.P.; C. Bourguignon; R. van den Brink (eds). 2009. *Agricultural Land Redistribution. Toward Greater Consensus*. World Bank. Washington D.C.

While avoiding the risk of over-simplifying the reality, which in many cases is complex, and/or caricaturing the often very sophisticated and nuanced positions held by many stakeholders, the proposed study seeks to be a succinct, reader-friendly reference for understanding the current state of the land governance debates without being a land expert.

Why now? The terms of the debates on land, agrarian reform, land tenure and administration have become more diverse and complex, as a result of a rapidly and radically changing global context. The deepening and expanding of the democratisation process, coupled with a greater recognition and protection of basic human rights (the rights and aspirations of the poor and of traditionally marginalised groups and communities as well as the rights of the wealthiest segments of society) create an environment in which some of the 20th Century Land Reform models approaches (namely the radical, authoritarian ones) might not be as legitimate as before. The greater demand for land, for productive use, human settlements, as well as for environmental conservation and climate mitigation purposes, creates new land governance challenges. The combined effects of the food and energy crises of the last two-three years have led to an unprecedented level of international land transactions which land reformers of the previous century did not have to deal with. Today's context is also marked by the emergence of a vibrant civil society, and larger and more influential international coalitions of farmer organisations (Borras et al. 2009)⁴. In this context of growing complexity and of multiplicity of actors, divergences and conflicts have sometimes more to do with the general confusion of the terms of the debates than a reflection of real differences of views. This study is being initiated with the belief that a problem well-defined is half-solved. The study is precisely aimed at helping better clarify the issues, the areas of consensus and the issues where views clash and diverge.

Why is it important for ILC? The International Land Coalition is a partnership which serves as an internal platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue aimed at advancing the pro-poor land agenda. For ILC to play effectively this role, it needs to ensure that its members and partners have a common understanding of the key land issues, have a minimum of shared knowledge on the issues in the debates and on the interests of perspectives of key multi-stakeholder groups. In the current context where the membership base of the Coalition is rapidly expanding, while being more and more diversified, in terms of institutional and organisational profiles, regional representation and areas of interests, it has become even more crucial for ILC to ensure a common understanding among its members and partners of the key elements of the land debates.

The proposed study will serve as key tool in the “induction” to land issues and challenges for existing and future ILC members and partners. The study will serve as reference for identifying key issues for targeted dialogues to advance the land governance debates. The Study will provide the needed preliminary information for understanding ILC members' and partners' positions and perspectives on the key issues in the land governance debate. This “stakeholder mapping” of the ILC constituency is envisaged as a separate follow up phase to the Study process described below.

2. Goal and objective of the Study

The goal of the study is to improve land governance through more inclusive and informed participation in land-related debates and dialogues.

⁴ Borras, S. M.n Jr.; M. Edelman; C. Kay. 2009. *Transnational Agrarian Movements Confronting Globalization*. Wiley-Blackwell. Malden (USA).

The objective of the study is to serve as a resource for clarifying and helping ensure a common understanding of the terms of the debate on key land governance issues.

ILC members and partners are a primary target for this work. Despite the fact that all ILC members share in principle the Coalition's goal of promoting "secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men", we know there are differences of understanding among ILC members of what this means and implies. The study will help unpack the variance in members' specific understandings of this goal.

The results of the Study are expected to be a valuable input to the formulation of ILC's 2011-2015 Strategic Framework, due for approval at the ILC Assembly of Members of April-May 2011.

The broader target of the Study is the general public. It seeks to "lower the bar" for engaging in debates on choices for land reform policies, on options for securing tenure rights, correcting inequities, preventing and managing land-related conflicts.

3. Methodology

Taking account of the existing regional differences in the way in which land issues are posed, the proposed study will have three regional components: one on Africa, one on Asia and one on Latin America; and a global component (which will also cover other regions, especially Eastern Europe and the Middle East).

3.1. Components

a. Regional components

Regional components of the study will provide a short historical overview of land/agrarian reform processes in each target region; describe recent trends and current challenges. Each component will also, on the basis of literature review and consultations with relevant stakeholders, identify the key issues in the land governance debates in the region, analyse the positions and perspectives from key stakeholder groups: governments, regional development agencies (regional inter-states institutions, regional development banks, etc.), the private sector, civil society organisations (including land activists groups, farmer organisations, etc...).

b. Global component

The global component of the study will have two sub-components: (a) coverage of the Middle East and Eastern Europe; (b) a general overview. The regional sub-component of the Middle East and Eastern Europe will address the same issues as for the Asia, Africa and Latin America components, using a similar approach. The general overview will consist of a global review of the past, of recent trends and current situation and challenges with respect to land governance (land reform, land tenure and administration). Land policies of major development agencies, especially ILC members and partners, will also be analysed.

c. General synthesis

The final report for this study will be based on the general synthesis of the regional and global components described above.

3.2. Team members

A team of 4 consultants will be hired to carry out the Study: a consultant will be responsible for each of the 3 regional components on Africa, Asia and Latin America. A lead consultant will be responsible for the general component and for the Synthesis work in collaboration with one of the three regional consultants.

Requirements:

- All consultants are expected to be familiar with and have proven work experience and publication record on land governance (land reform, land tenure issues) in various parts of the world (for the Team Leader) or in their respective focus regions (for consultants responsible for the regional components).
- The Team leader is expected to have excellent writing skills in English and a working knowledge of either French or Spanish;
- The Consultant responsible for the Asia Region should be fluent in English
- The Consultant responsible for the Africa component should be fluent in either English or French and have a working knowledge of the other language
- The Consultant responsible for the Latin America component should be fluent in either English or Spanish and have a working knowledge of the other language

3.3. Timeline

	Month							
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8
Scoping/coordination meeting								
Regional components								
Global component								
Synthesis								
Peer review								
Finalisation of report								
Publication and launch								