LAND AND THE SDGs
LET’S START WITH
THE EVIDENCE

WHY IS SECURING LAND RIGHTS
CENTRAL TO ACHIEVING THE SDGs?

TO ERADICATE POVERTY
AND HUNGER.
Countries where women lack any right
to own land have on average 60%
MORE MALNOURISHED CHILDREN.¹

TO BUILD A WORLD OF JUSTICE
WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE
PROTECTED FOR ALL.
Inadequate tenure rights, unequal land
distribution and economic pressure
on natural resources translate into
massive human rights violations. At least
200 LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL
LAND DEFENDERS KILLED in 2016.²

TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
AND FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE.
In the Brazilian Amazon the
DEFORESTATION RATE IS 11 TIMES
LOWER IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’
AND COMMUNITY FORESTS.
In the Guatemalan Petén, it is 20 times
lower, and in the Mexican Yucatan, it is
350 times lower.³

¹ OECD Development Centre, At Issue:
Do Discriminatory Social Institutions Matter for Food Security? 2012; see also OECD
Development Centre, Coding of the Social
Institutions Variables, available at
http://genderindex.org/sites/default/files/
GID_variables.pdf.

² Global Witness. Defenders of the Earth
www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/
environmental-activists/defenders-earth/

³ Common Ground: Securing Land Rights
and Safeguarding the Earth. Land Rights Now,
THE SOLUTION: PEOPLE CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE

Progress on the ILC’s 10 Commitments will contribute to at least 13 goals 59 targets relating to People-Centred Land Governance

NO LAND RIGHTS, NO SDGs!

IF GOVERNMENTS FAIL to secure and protect collective tenure rights, coupled with the growing competition on natural resources, we see the severe risk that:

» Local communities will be evicted without compensation – undermining Goals 1, 2, 5, 10 as well as, indirectly, Goals 3 & 4.

» Indigenous Peoples forests will be bought, leased or grabbed by others and cleared – this will undermine Goals 13 and 15.

» An increase in conflicts and human rights violations – undermining Goals 16 and 8.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

Building on the agreements already reached in the 2012 VGGTs (Responsible Governance of Tenure), governments should fully implement and monitor the land rights –related Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Indicators by:

» Investing in tenure reforms that leave no one behind and in policies and programs that respect, secure and protect tenure rights on land and other natural resources for all women and men Indigenous Peoples, family farmers, pastoralists, fisher people and local communities.

» Taking urgent and ambitious action to ensure that women have equal rights to land and other natural resources and decision-making.

» Ensuring that the 6th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG), to be held in November 11-14, will re-classify indicators 1.4.2. and 5.a.2 from Tier III to Tier II to move them toward their much needed full implementation.

» Providing political and, with the support of relevant international partners, financial support needed to ensure that, at country level:

» SDGs indicators focusing specifically on tenure rights (1.4.2., 5.a.1 and 5.a.2) and other indicators that are relevant to realise People-Centred Land Governance will be fully implemented;

» Progress on land rights and governance will be adequately monitored in an open, transparent and participatory manner that ensure that Indigenous Peoples, smallholder and family farmers and pastoralists are fully involved.

www.landcoalition.org  www.landrightsnow.org  #landrightsnow