



**A people-centered call to action: Promoting secure tenure rights  
for inclusive land governance, climate resilience, and conflict  
resolution**

We, the members of the International Land Coalition Africa, while reaffirming our support to the Global Land Forum 2025 Declaration, issue this urgent call to action, united in our conviction that **secure land rights are a foundation for transformative agrarian reform, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems, climate justice, and the dismantling of extractive, exclusionary models of development.**

Across Africa and the world, land is not a commodity, land is life. It shapes identity, culture, food, energy, shelter, and survival. Yet, land is increasingly contested, commodified, and concentrated, fueling inequality, marginalization, and conflict. Climate change and biodiversity collapse deepen these injustices, disproportionately affecting Indigenous Peoples (namely hunter gatherers, forest dwellers, pastoralists... in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples-UNDRIP) and Local Communities, smallholder farmers, victims of colonialism, youth, and women, those least responsible for this crisis

The livelihoods of these communities are at risk due to disruption of their food and livelihood systems. Secure tenure rights are essential for inclusive governance, ecological stewardship, and equitable access to land and natural resources. They empower communities to invest in sustainable agriculture, participate in democratic land governance processes, safeguard biodiversity, and pursue climate adaptation and mitigation rooted in justice.

The urgency for inclusive land governance has never been greater. Resource scarcity, land and water conflicts, and the impacts of climate change are colliding with flawed governance systems and unchecked extractive development. These dynamics act as threat multipliers, undermining peace, increasing displacement, and accelerating environmental degradation.

Yet, hope endures. Across continents, communities are organizing to reclaim their rights, restore degraded ecosystems, transform food systems, and chart pathways away from fossil fuel dependency and exploitative land use. What they need now is bold political will, transformative policies, and genuine partnerships rooted in justice and solidarity.

**From commitment to bold action**

We reaffirm our collective commitment **to advance secure land tenure for all as a lever for inclusive land governance, food sovereignty, ecological restoration, sustainable land use, energy justice, and conflict prevention.** Secure tenure fosters stability and a sense of belonging, enabling communities to sustainably steward their land, defend biodiversity, and engage meaningfully in shaping their futures. We call on all actors to act urgently, courageously, and in alignment with the aspirations of communities who are at the forefront of land and climate justice.

**1. Governments and policymakers: lead on land governance and transformative just systems**

- Champion equitable land redistribution that uplifts smallholder farmers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and pastoralist communities.
- Decolonize land laws and governance systems to reflect the rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as Local Communities Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities knowledge systems, and their lived realities.

- Recognize and legally protect customary and collective tenure systems as safeguards against conflict, displacement, and ecological breakdown.
- Strengthen protection of land and environmental defenders from violence, criminalization, and impunity
- Ensure that land-based investments are rooted in fair policies and laws, transparent governance, uphold tenure arrangements and land rights, improved livelihoods and take into account the FPIC principles.
- Urgently solve land-related court backlogs, enforce land related court decisions and invest in alternative dispute resolution and alternative justice systems grounded in community norms.
- Align national land governance with regional and global frameworks (such as the Agenda 2063 of the African Union (AU), the AU Framework Policy on pastoralism, the Voluntary Guidelines on land governance, etc.) to advance land justice and climate action.

## **2. Civil society movements: drive people-centred transformation**

- Mobilize land policies rooted in human rights, agroecology, and the self-determination of rural communities.
- Elevate the leadership of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and pastoral communities in land and climate governance.
- Promote family farming and community-based food systems as anchors of agri-food transformation and biodiversity protection.
- Empower youth through education, organizing, and innovation in land justice and regenerative economies.
- Strengthen grassroots movements and connect them with regional and global platforms for solidarity, learning, and advocacy.
- Embark on advocacy actions to protect and defend their land, natural resources and territorial rights
- Connect struggles and actions of solidarity
- Lobby other actors support to advance their land and territorial rights.

## **3. Private sector: invest in land, people, and the planet, ethically and transparently**

- Commit to responsible investment practices anchored in free, prior, and informed consent.
- Reject all forms of land grabbing, forced evictions, and extractive development.
- Collaborate with communities to advance regenerative agriculture, landscape restoration, and fair, inclusive value chains.
- Ensure transparency, accountability, and equity across land-based business operations and supply chains.
- Transition away from extractive energy models toward just, locally rooted renewable solutions.

## **4. International organizations and donors: support long-term, justice-oriented transformation**

- Foster inclusive, multi-stakeholder processes to co-create pathways for sustainable land governance and transformative just food systems, agrarian reform, food system resilience, and just energy transition.
- Provide sustained financial, technical, and political support for land and tenure reform led by communities and civil society.
- Center local knowledge and voices in international land, food, and climate dialogues.
- Protect and amplify land and environmental defenders and ensure accountability for violations.

## **5. Individuals: stay informed, engaged and in solidarity**

- Learn about the intersections of land justice, climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable food systems.
- Stand in solidarity with communities defending land, ecosystems, and livelihoods.
- Use your voice, networks, and platforms to challenge land injustices and advocate for just transitions.

### **Together for a just future**

The journey toward **land governance and transformative just food systems and a just response to the climate and biodiversity crises**, begins with people, those who live on and from the land. Let us listen to their voices, uphold their land rights, and act in solidarity to ensure land is governed for dignity, sustainability, and peace.

**This is our moment to act boldly. Land cannot wait. Communities cannot wait. The planet cannot wait.**