UNITING FOR LAND RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA

HOW ILC MEMBERS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO CHANGE

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NLC ARGENTINA works towards the realisation of the following ILC commitments for People-Centred Land Governance:

- **Commitment 2**: Strong small-scale farming systems
- **Commitment 4**: Equal land rights for women
- **Commitment 5**: Secure territorial rights for Indigenous Peoples
- **Commitment 10**: Protected land rights defenders
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the efforts of the International Land Coalition (ILC) and its member organisations in advancing People-Centred Land Governance (PCLG) in Argentina.

The document highlights the contributions of the National Land Coalition (NLC), led by ILC members and its partners, in influencing changes in policies, agendas, and practices to ensure that peasant and Indigenous groups, alongside women and the youth, have equitable access to, use, and management of land, water and other vital natural resources in the Chaco region, la Puna and Mesopotamia. Since its formulation in 2018, NLC Argentina’s members and partners have worked to advocate and safeguard territorial and environmental rights across the country. These sustained efforts have directly influenced national policies, securing the adoption of recommendations to improve access to land and water and the autonomy of rural and Indigenous women. NLC members have also played a crucial role in protecting the territorial rights of Indigenous communities, and in promoting sustainable and inclusive development in the country.

Moreover, NLC members have highlighted the need for communal property legislation at the national level, as well as for respecting human rights in the business sector, contributing to the regulation of key laws, and establishing the platform as a key actor in land and environmental defence in Argentina.

In collaboration with its partners and other stakeholders, the National Land Coalition has achieved significant impacts in promoting and protecting territorial and environmental rights in Argentina. The NLC directly influenced the recommendations of the CEDAW and ICESCR Committees, leading to the Argentine government adopting 26 specific recommendations that enhance access to land, water, and the autonomy of rural and Indigenous women. In addition, the Coalition played a crucial role in ensuring the extension of the Emergency Law of Indigenous Community Land Possession and Ownership, providing greater security for communal Indigenous territories and preventing unjust evictions.

Furthermore, the NLC has solidified its position as a key reference on land rights issues by achieving the inclusion of land targets in the Voluntary National Reports on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) submitted by the Argentine Government. This joint effort has promoted sustainable and inclusive development in the country.

In terms of human rights and corporate accountability, the NLC managed to incorporate complaints of violations perpetrated by companies against local communities in the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights’ report, highlighting the need for community property legislation at the national level and greater respect for human rights in the business sector.
On the other hand, the NLC actively contributed to the approval of the regulation of Law 27.118 on the Historical Reparation of Family Farming, thus settling a historical debt of the country with the rural, peasant, and indigenous sector and establishing an essential basis for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants.

Finally, the successful inclusion of the agenda of land and territory defenders in the Escazú Agreement’s national implementation plan consolidated the NLC as a crucial point of reference in the enactment of specific laws and programs aimed at supporting those who defend the land and the environment, and thus strengthening the protection of territorial and environmental rights in Argentina.
In Argentina, the high concentration of land, its extractive usage, the predominance of monocultures, and a reliance on agrochemicals to support the agro-export model have severe ecological impacts and escalate conflicts and threats against peasant and Indigenous communities engaged in family farming. This exacerbates inequalities and endangers the country’s food security and sovereignty. It is alarming that 40% of the country’s territory, amounting to 65 million hectares, is concentrated in the hands of just 1,200 landowners.

In many cases, this concentration in land has led to severe cases of land grabbing, where not only are there fewer landowners, but they also cause environmental harm and social injustices. Deforestation, ecosystem loss, soil and water contamination, and the expulsion and eviction of peasants and Indigenous people from their lands are among the phenomena associated with land concentration and characterise the situation of land grabbing. According to Land Matrix LAC, land grabbing affects nearly 50 million hectares in Latin America, with over 11 million in Argentina.

Regarding land tenure, there's a growing gap between legislation and the on-the-ground reality. The National Constitution of 1853 acknowledged first-generation rights and established a representative, republican, and federal government. The 1994 Constitution expanded rights by recognizing Indigenous community land ownership and by promoting sustainable development, resulting in various land ownership and use regimes across the provinces. However, most Indigenous and peasant communities lack property ownership titles and inhabit lands that are insufficient for their full human development.

The last military dictatorship (1976-1983) impacted rural development by dissolving organisations and modifying laws that promoted the social function of land. Similarly, policies implemented in the 90s – characterised by market deregulation and privatisations – led to alarming processes of land and natural resource concentration, allowing the expansion of large national and transnational agro-industrial corporations.
Following the political, economic, social, and institutional crisis of 2001\(^2\), there was significant investment in agriculture which consolidated the expansion of large-scale farming, predominantly soy cultivation, which by 2021 represented 47% of the country’s cultivated surface. This has resulted in only 5% of the population living in rural areas, despite the availability of vast arable lands. Instead of land being cultivated by small and medium-scale producers, large agricultural companies and urban and foreign investors have taken over the land, displacing peasant and Indigenous communities and consolidating an agriculture without farmers.

In response to this context of arbitrary dispossessions, and thanks to the pressure exerted by Indigenous organisations, the Indigenous Territorial Emergency Law (Law 26160) was passed in 2006. This law legislatively mandated the State’s obligation as a matter of public order for the first time. Furthermore, it is the only law committing the Argentine State to legally recognize the rights of Indigenous peoples over their lands, territories, and existing resources derived from traditional occupation and use, and their norms and customs regarding property and land and resources use. Despite being extended three times, this legal recognition process has yet to be completed and remains a prioritised demand by Indigenous communities.

Land concentration and displacement processes intensified in 2015 when the government implemented policies favouring large production and export sectors in agriculture, neglecting small-scale production. This was evidenced by the renaming of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries to the Ministry of Agroindustry.

According to Soverna, with data from Landex, currently, agricultural operations of less than 200 hectares account for 65.9%, but only possess 4.70% of the land, while those over 5,000 hectares make up 2.49% but control 51% of the land. As of August 2019, according to Land Matrix LAC, 217 large land transactions were recorded in Argentina, mainly for large-scale crops and livestock, covering a total of 4,467,125 hectares.

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**INEQUALITY AND MARGINALISATION OF VOICES**

**PEASANT, CREOLE, AND INDIGENOUS WOMEN**

Argentina ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1985 and elevated it to constitutional rank in 1994. Despite this legal framework on gender equality, the State fails to promote its full application.

Peasant, Creole, and Indigenous women in Argentina, and especially the youth, have been marginalised due to gender inequalities and the control of resources by large patriarchal capitalist enterprises. Socio-economic crises have disproportionately impacted them due to the historic lack of access to benefits comparable to those of men. Furthermore, public policies on family farming and access to land do not address this disparity, further limiting their access to land and natural resources. Despite leading the care economy and the transmission of community knowledge, women are most affected by territorial dispossession. The loss of their lands, crucial both materially and spiritually, displaces them from their traditional roles, impacting them individually and collectively.

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\(^2\) La crisis argentina que estalló en diciembre de 2001 fue un período de profunda inestabilidad política, social, económica e institucional. El principal detonante fue la restricción del retiro de dinero de los bancos, conocida como “corralito”, que provocó protestas masivas en todo el país. La represión de las manifestaciones ordenada por el entonces presidente Fernando De la Rúa dejó 39 muertos y 500 heridos entre el 18 y el 20 de diciembre. Tras la salida del gobierno, se sucedieron cuatro presidentes en once días. La explosión de esta crisis puso de manifiesto los impactos de las políticas neoliberales de la década del 90, con una recesión económica prolongada, elevados índices de pobreza, y problemas sociales y financieros a nivel nacional.
Land tenure insecurity, manifested through the lack of property titles or government decrees without a legal foundation, negatively impacts rural women, making them vulnerable to evictions. This, in turn, jeopardises their rights to health, education, and food sovereignty. Moreover, in Argentina, women face barriers to accessing justice, such as the lack of resources to hire lawyers, the remoteness of courts, and discrimination by public officials with sexist attitudes. The combination of inequalities and vulnerabilities such as gender, ethnicity, and rurality complicates the resolution of these problems.

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

According to data from the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Argentina (INDEC), nearly one million people identify as belonging to or being descendants of Indigenous or native peoples. Officially, 35 Indigenous peoples are recognized in Argentina, though some organisations suggest the number might currently be 40.

Despite having constitutional rights at the federal level and in various provinces, the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the Argentine state has historically been traumatic, and Indigenous Peoples often reside in peripheral areas, resulting from historical processes that stripped them of their lands and marginalised them towards the borders. To this day, their rights to self-determination, self-governance, and autonomy have not been fully included. In Argentina, there are no legal provisions establishing an "Indigenous quota" in the legislature, cultural diversity is not incorporated into electoral laws, and access to significant governmental roles by Indigenous communities has been very limited. Although international legal instruments recognize the right of Indigenous peoples to full participation in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the State (Article 5 of the UNDRIP), the absence of specific national laws dilutes this right, limiting real opportunities for political participation.

In the year 2000, Argentina ratified the International Labour Organization’s Convention 169, and in 2004, it established the Indigenous Participation Council (CPI), later the Advisory and Participatory Council of Indigenous Peoples, under the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs. However, despite some attempts, the right to consultation remains very limited and virtually non-existent, facing numerous obstacles to its realisation.

Over the last decade, the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the Argentine State has been problematic and lacking the necessary attention. The Indigenous issue continues to be marginalised and is not addressed with the political seriousness required to discuss the functioning of the State, the type of democracy most appropriate, and how to ensure effective inclusion to fully respect legally recognized Indigenous rights.
The lack of representation of Indigenous communities in governmental structures limits the formulation of intercultural policies that integrate their voice, perpetuating paternalistic approaches that maintain subordination and entrenched racism.

Although Indigenous communities, long relegated to the margins of the country, strive to preserve their collective identity and worldview, a minimum level of participation according to international standards has yet to be achieved, especially regarding policy design.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRISSES AND LAND DEFENDERS

The recurring economic and political crises in Argentina have most severely impacted the country’s rural and Indigenous communities. The burden of foreign debt, which has led governments to support extractive activities such as mining, oil exploitation, and agribusiness, comes at the expense of environmental degradation and pressure on peasant and Indigenous communities in their territories, exacerbating the economic and territorial vulnerability of these populations. This is compounded by lithium extraction, a strategic mineral in light of the recent global demand driven by the push for clean energies that do not generate greenhouse gases (GHGs). Argentina, as one of the world’s main reserves of this transition mineral, faces this extractive activity that generates contradictions for the environment, territorial rights, and human rights. The extractivist model has had disastrous effects on the environment, from soil desertification to biodiversity loss, droughts, floods, and forest fires. Moreover, pollution from activities without adequate environmental studies and with limited public participation has put intense pressure on access to natural resources such as land and water. The insecurity in land tenure for rural families manifests in pressures, threats, and forced evictions which are often violent and supported by police or business forces, putting the lives of those affected at risk. Environmental conflicts associated with extractivism are numerous and affect 90% of Argentine provinces.

In light of the mentioned conflicts, human, environmental, and land defenders operate in an extremely unfavourable political and economic environment to safeguard their territorial and environmental rights. According to the 2022 LANDex Argentina report, commitment 10 regarding the “protection of land rights defenders” reflects a low score due to the scant implementation of the legal framework intended to protect land defenders, despite the existence of regulations that should safeguard them.

The documentary “Lithium: what is behind the reform”, produced by NLC Argentina, reconstructs the violent repressions suffered by communities facing the advance of extractivism and the unconstitutional reform in Jujuy.
TIMELINE OF KEY PROGRESS
The first Assembly between ILC members and their allies, leading to the formation of the NLC (23 organisations). This becomes the inaugural platform to bring together 40 diverse organisations dedicated to land and territory defence.

Strategy with a decentralised territorial focus, incorporating provincial and regional working groups. Work to compile a database of associated grassroots organisations, information on land ownership, and access to water begins.

Report to the Convention on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR) detailing the situation of the economic, social, and cultural rights of rural women in Gran Chaco and Puna.

Process to enhance the capacity of women’s organisations in Human Rights and methodologies for creating alternative reports.

The NLC is recognised by UN Argentina as a key interlocutor.

The NLC issues a detailed report on the SDG Land targets, achieving a milestone by including the first questions on land addressed to the Argentine state during the High-Level Political Forum.

The progressive strengthening of organisations through participation in the NLC results in the institutionalisation of the Women’s Committee, enhancing the platform’s governance system.

Collaboration with the External Advisory Council of the National Climate Change Cabinet, providing the NLC a platform to influence public policies with crucial recommendations on climate change.

The report directed to the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the CESCR report presented in Geneva, prepared by the NLC, leads to 26 specific recommendations for peasant and Indigenous women. These recommendations were adopted by the Argentine government, resulting in the implementation of five programmes by the Secretariat of Family, Peasant, and Indigenous Agriculture (SAFEI) in October 2020.

The NLC ensures that the Argentine government prioritises lands occupied by them. This is the only law that commits the Argentine State to legally recognise the rights of Indigenous peoples over their lands, territories, and resources, halting the evictions of these communities.

The NLC strengthens its governance with the creation of two committees: the youth committee and the land committee. Additionally, the first National School Youth, Land, and Territory is organised, contributing to amplifying the voice and participation of younger generations.

The Grassroots and Peoples’ Organisations within the NLC take ownership of the platform as a key space for their collective struggle, becoming key actors in the achieved changes. This is evidenced by the self-organisation processes of the NLC’s working committees (women, youth, land), who, after presenting the CEDAW and CESCR reports, had a direct impact on national public policy as their inputs were uptaken by the Government.

Increased visibility for women environmental defenders through the production and dissemination of the audiovisual series “Guardians of the Territory”. This series is published on Cinear4, a platform of the National Institute of Cinema and Audiovisual Arts, and broadcast on public television.


The UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights includes in its report to the Argentine state complaints about human rights violations against local communities presented by NLC organisations.

Peasant and Indigenous organisations achieve the approval of the regulations of Law 27.118, on the Historical Reparation of Family Agriculture, with the crucial support of the NLC. This achievement is essential to address the historical debt to the rural and Indigenous sector and establishes a foundation for the application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP).

Presentation of the report “Between the global north and south, plundering of the commons and energy transition. The case of Lithium in Jujuy” as a key instrument for influence in international spaces like COP 28.

The NLC Argentina plays a pivotal role in organising COP 2 of Escazú, solidifying its relationship with the Ministry of Environment, the National Escazú Implementation Committee, and the Ombudsman’s Office. These efforts successfully integrate the Defenders’ agenda into the national action plan for implementing the Agreement. Furthermore, the NLC co-organises a panel with the host country during COP2 of Escazú, reaffirming its commitment and leadership in promoting and defending environmental rights in Argentina and the region.

The NLC contributes to securing the extension of Law 26160, focused on the technical, legal, and cadastral survey of Indigenous Communities and, if applicable, lands occupied by them. This is the only law that commits the Argentine State to legally recognise the rights of Indigenous peoples over their lands, territories, and resources; halting the evictions of these communities.
ILC's **2030 Strategy** comprises three strategic objectives that guide work to secure land rights for and with people, namely through support to

- National Land Coalitions;
- the generation and use of people's data for accountability; and
- regional and global advocacy to influence governments, traditional authorities and corporations in realising people-centred land governance.

Guided by a systems change approach, work towards the strategic objectives is planned alongside and in support of one another.

For ILC operations to be transformative, activities under each strategic objective work together and support each other across different levels of action, guided by our spirit of a systemic change approach. For ILC, this means transferring power into the hands of the people whose lives depend on the land, positioning land rights as a key solution for addressing global challenges, building and maintaining diverse partnerships, as well as seeing and measuring our impact on the ground. The following section describes the work under each Strategic Objective in relation to the efforts of the NLC and its partners to advance people-centred land governance in Argentina.
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

NATIONAL LAND COALITIONS ADVANCE PEOPLE-CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE

National Land Coalitions (NLCs) encompass multi-stakeholder processes set in motion by ILC members to promote people-centred land governance. Led by national actors, NLCs unite various land actors, including Peoples’ Organisations (POs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), local communities, intergovernmental organisations, research centres, government entities, among others in order to find strategies and lasting solutions to land governance.

To date, ILC has supported the establishment and strengthening of NLCs in 30 countries, where they play a key role in accelerating the recognition, defence and protection of land rights, and are further complemented by joint efforts with ILC’s regional and global thematic platforms (SO3).

From its inception, the NLC works to ensure access, use, and management of land, water, and other natural resources for peasant and Indigenous organisations, women, and youth. It focuses on five provinces in the Chaco Region, characterised by its climate vulnerability and high conflict relating to land rights of the peasant and Indigenous population that inhabits it. Until 2020, they deployed a work strategy based on the formation of dialogue tables to influence local and provincial governments. Subsequently, national influence is prioritised, maintaining territorial work in the Chaco, to bring the participation and proposals of the peasant and Indigenous population of that region to national decision-making spaces. In 2022, youth were incorporated into the governance of the NLC through the creation of a specific committee.

The current strategy prioritises strengthening the capacities of grassroots organisations to influence gender justice, land security, family farming, and climate justice issues, with special attention to the protection of women environmental defenders. The goal is for these organisations, along with peasant and Indigenous communities, to be able to exercise their rights over land, water, and other natural resources, including the right to their defence.

During its six years of work, the NLC has managed to influence six changes in policies and practices, such as the implementation of NLC recommendations to international committees on land access and the autonomy of rural and indigenous women; the approval of the regulation of the Family Farming Law; the inclusion of the agenda of environmental defenders in the Escazú Agreement; the inclusion of complaints from organisations belonging to NLC Argentina in the report of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights towards the Argentine State; the extension of the Emergency Law on Indigenous Community Possession and Property; and the incorporation by the Argentine government of land goals in its Voluntary National Reviews on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

4 ILC uses the term of People’s Organisations for constituency-based organisations that directly represent and are accountable to people depending upon land - such as farmers, peasants, women, Indigenous Peoples, agricultural workers, fishers, the landless, pastoralists, forest users, and other associations of rural peoples, including community-based organisations. For Indigenous Peoples, who are holders of collective rights as Peoples, ILC fully supports the rights to self-determination and self governance.
**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2**

**PEOPLES’ DATA IS PRODUCED AND USED TO HOLD GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESSES ACCOUNTABLE**

*ILC facilitates the collection, management, and use of data on land rights—especially by People’s Organisations—in order to raise awareness of structural inequalities and build collective advocacy.*

ILC members receive support to produce and utilise this data to promote transparency, demand accountability, and monitor progress towards sustainable development across all levels.

To this end, the NLC in Argentina worked with the ILC’s Land Governance Index (LANDex), a global index developed in consultation with ILC members and partners that places people at the centre of land data while democratising land monitoring. LANDex is used in conjunction with other ILC-supported tools to overcome data fragmentation to complement official datasets, often working closely with national statistical offices and other data initiatives like LandMark, which monitors progress in the rights guarantees of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, or Prindex, which monitors the perception of land tenure security at the national level.

Specifically, from the data collection exercise in Argentina, the proposal developed by the implementing team to analyse Prindex data stands out. According to the quantitative information provided by the tool, 85% of rural inhabitants claimed to feel secure in their land tenure. When inconsistencies between these results and field experience were evident, research methodologies were implemented that opened spaces for data discussion to collect voices from representatives of organisations in the territories.

Moreover, the NLC Argentina has been distinguished by its extensive experience in leading advocacy processes through the development of alternative reports directed to the UN Human Rights committees, achieving a significant impact on vital issues for the country’s rural and Indigenous communities, such as family farming, the environmental crisis, and rural and Indigenous women’s rights to land and territory. The preparation of these reports has always been a collaborative effort, led by NLC member organisations, especially peasant and Indigenous women, youth, and territory defenders, in close coordination with United Nations agencies and other relevant actors at the national level.

Since 2016, even before its formalisation as a platform, ILC member organisations have had a direct impact on policies implemented by the Argentine state, backed by UN recommendations. This has been achieved through the development of shadow reports for CEDAW and, two years later, for CESCR. These reports, developed in close collaboration with the United Nations national office, are fundamental as they reflect the perspective of Indigenous and peasant women.

Since then, the NLC has produced seven reports on human rights, land and territory rights, water crisis, environmental impacts, food systems, Family Farming Law, and community land ownership, among others. These reports have had a significant impact when presented to the United Nations Human Rights Committee, UN special rapporteurs on Human Rights, and governmental spaces. This work has established the NLC as a reference on land issues at the national level and has made the platform a space for articulation, where the voices of those who live on and depend on the land are placed at the core of debates and decision-making spaces that directly affect them.
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3
REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ADVOCACY BUILDS POLITICAL COMMITMENT

ILC’s member-led thematic regional and global platforms work to advocate for people-centred land governance, amplify the voices of ILC members (particularly those of women and youth), and to foster enabling environments and political commitment to ILC’s priority areas for PCLG as outlined through our 10 commitments that guide the work of the Coalition and its members.

As part of efforts to amplify the voices of our members, ILC supports People’s Organisations (POs) to lead global and regional partnerships calling for the recognition of land as a human right, while challenging predominant narratives, and facilitating peer-to-peer learning. Work under this Strategic Objective moreover places emphasis on building capacities in support of leadership by People’s Organisations, alongside ILC’s network pledges of gender justice and defending land defenders.

The NLC in Argentina collaborates with the following ILC regional platforms:

- **Regional Land and SDGs Platform**
  In 2020, the Civil Society Report on SDG Land Targets in Argentina was produced in partnership with the Regional Land and SDGs Platform. This collaboration has allowed global advocacy within the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPPF) to contribute nationally to including specific land data in the country’s Voluntary National Reports. In 2021, the government prioritised and incorporated two new land targets in the document: “Argentina - Country Report 2021 - Monitoring progress towards the 17 SDG targets”. In July 2022, the NLC and the Land and SDGs PR presented contributions to the Third Voluntary National Report by the government, which contributed to the inclusion of land data.

- **Regional Platform for Land and Territory Defenders**
  The Argentine NLC actively participates in the Regional Platform for Land and Territory Defenders. This collaboration is key to influencing the regional implementation of the Escazú Agreement. In 2023, this alliance positioned the importance of protection and safety mechanisms for land and environmental defenders within the Agreement, through participation in two key advocacy spaces such as COP2 of Escazú and the Second Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- **Regional Family Farming Platform**
  The alliance with this platform contributed to generating information for the advocacy processes carried out by the NLC to achieve the regulation of the Family Farming Law, through the preparation of the country report on family farming in 2021.
Land Matrix
This alliance has enabled the Platform to have a map detailing the characteristics of the organisations that make up the NLC and those they work with. This has allowed for an understanding of the composition, needs, and issues each organisation works on, as well as the conflicts they face. This is a georeferenced database and constantly updated.

Regional Movement of Rural Youth “We Are Land and Territory”
The Youth Committee of the NLC is linked to the youth movement driven by the ILC in the region, as well as the ILC’s Global Youth Network. This has been achieved through various strategies, such as the Regional School of Youth, Land and Territory, which was replicated by the NLC at the national level in 2022, and the Global Scholarship Programme.
KEY PROGRESS
CATALYSED BY ILC MEMBERS AND PLATFORMS

THE NLC INFLUENCES THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CEDAW AND CESCR COMMITTEES IMPLEMENTED BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT

In 2016, before the establishment of the National Land Coalition (NLC) in Argentina, ILC member organisations, along with women from Grassroots and Peoples’ Organisations, drafted the first shadow report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), focusing on the access of rural women in the Argentine Gran Chaco to natural resources. Three years later, with the founding of the NLC, the CESCR report was drafted and presented in Geneva, reflecting the situation of the economic, social, and cultural rights of Argentine rural women in Gran Chaco and Puna. Together, both reports garnered 26 specific recommendations for the sector, formulated by the peasant and Indigenous women who participated in this process.

The Argentine government adopted these recommendations, and in October 2020, the Secretariat of Family, Peasant, and Indigenous Agriculture (SAFCEI) implemented five programmes to directly address the recommendations set out by the CEDAW (2016) and ESCR (2018) Committees, respectively, in relation to access to land, water, and the autonomy of rural and Indigenous women.

To date, both reports continue to be used as advocacy tools in community judicial processes and before state authorities. The women of the NLC, organised to assess the scope and impact of their recommendations in these reports, established the Women’s Monitoring Committee. This group gave rise to a new governance system of the platform that includes two representation committees for youths and women, and one thematic committee focused on land defence.
EXTENSION OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY LAND POSSESSION AND OWNERSHIP EMERGENCY LAW

In 2021, the Coalition played a pivotal role in securing the latest extension that will keep the Indigenous Community Land Possession and Ownership Emergency Law in force until 2025, thanks to the pressure and advocacy actions carried out by the NLC in the national arena. While the State completes this recognition process, the National Land Coalition is pushing for the approval of a law on Indigenous community ownership.

In 2006, the Indigenous Territorial Emergency Law (Law 26160) was approved, marking a crucial moment in the struggle of Indigenous communities for the protection of their territorial rights. This is the only law that provides for the protection of Indigenous lands, and commits the Argentine State to legally recognize the lands historically occupied by these communities and to suspend evictions, offering the possibility of greater security in their territories. Despite this commitment, the State has not yet completed the process of legal recognition of these Indigenous lands, which has led Popular and People's Organizations to exert pressure in various instances and avenues in order to extend the law.

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT INCORPORATES LAND TARGETS IN ITS VOLUNTARY REPORTS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

The NLC achieved a significant milestone by ensuring the inclusion of Sustainable Development Goals 1.4, 2.3, and 5.a, which focus on land, in the National Voluntary Report presented by the Argentine State in 2021. In 2020, the NLC, in collaboration with the Regional Land and SDGs Platform, LANDEX, and Land Matrix initiatives promoted by the ILC, prepared a report to assess the State's progress in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) linked to land rights. This joint effort, along with the active participation of the NLC and the Regional Land and SDGs Platform in the High-Level Political Forum and the ECLAC Regional SDG Forum, has established the NLC as a key reference in Argentine civil society and before the government entity responsible for the SDGs in the country on land-related issues.

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE ARGENTINE STATE INCORPORATES COMPLAINTS FROM NLC ORGANISATIONS, HIGHLIGHTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS PERPETRATED BY COMPANIES AGAINST LOCAL COMMUNITIES

During the assessment of the adverse impacts of business activities on human rights conducted by the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights in February 2023, Indigenous and peasant organisations from the NLC presented complaints about Human Rights violations and insecurity concerning their lands.

The complaints submitted by the NLC to the Working Group were reflected in the report to the Argentine State. This report emphasises the persistence of evictions, often violent, despite the prohibition established by Law 26160. These evictions, especially for extensive projects such as extractive industries, have created obstacles in the slow and ineffective process of surveying the territories. Furthermore, the NLC’s recommendations on the establishment of a national law on community ownership and progress in the titling process in line with Law 26160, were included in the suggestions made to the State.
APPROVAL OF REGULATION OF LAW 27.118 ON THE HISTORICAL REPARATION OF FAMILY FARMING

In a historic event, by mid-2023, peasant and Indigenous organisations in the country secured the approval of the regulation of Law 27.118 on the Historical Reparation of Family Farming, initially enacted in 2014. The NLC played a crucial role in this process, as since its establishment, member organisations of the platform worked tirelessly to achieve a regulation that included land rights, an equitable gender perspective, and an adequate budget for its implementation.

Furthermore, the NLC carried out effective strategies to influence this regulation, which included high-level meetings and active participation in national councils on family farming. This achievement is fundamental as it aims to settle the country’s historical debt with the rural, peasant, and Indigenous sector, and establishes a baseline for demanding the application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP).

THE AGENDA OF LAND AND TERRITORY DEFENDERS IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT

The NLC Argentina introduced the category of land and environmental defenders to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for the first time. As a result, this category was incorporated into the National Implementation Plan of the Escazú Agreement, in whose design the Coalition actively participated. Moreover, in 2022, the NLC achieved that the Ministry also recognises women land defenders as interlocutors in its Climate Change Commission.

Additionally, the NLC successfully included the agenda of land and environmental defenders in COP2 of Escazú, held in Buenos Aires. These achievements represent a fundamental step towards encouraging the enactment of laws and specific programmes aimed at supporting those who defend the land and the environment and have consolidated the NLC as a crucial reference for providing information about land and environmental defenders.
By working within broad partnerships, ILC’s impact is considerably wider than the confines of its network or budget. These collaborations contribute to changing the agendas, policies, and practices of governments, traditional authorities, and corporations to secure land rights for and with people.

The platform works closely with its strategic partners, including:

- **UN Argentina**
  An NLC ally in the shadow report drafting cycle for advocacy with the CEDAW and ESCR Committees; rapporteur ships related to agri-food systems, business and human rights, and the protection of defenders; as well as to position alternative reports on the SDGs.

- **Secretariat of Family Agriculture and the National Council of Family Agriculture**
  A key entity for positioning the NLC’s proposal for the regulation of the Family Farming Law, through the participation of peasant organisations. At the regional level, the Specialised Meeting on Family Agriculture (REAF), a regional dialogue space between society and Mercosur governments on family agriculture policies, was another space to influence the regulation.

- **Secretariat of Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment and National Development, and the External Advisory Council of the National Climate Change Cabinet**
  The NLC was recognised by these bodies as a key platform to contribute to the implementation process of the Escazú Agreement and for including the agenda of land and territory defenders in the National Implementation Plan of the Agreement.
- **Ombudsman’s Office of the Nation**
  A key ally for the NLC’s involvement in COP 2 of Escazú and for including the agenda of land and territory defenders in the National Implementation Plan of the Escazú Agreement.

- **Oxfam Argentina and Oxfam Peru**
  Strategic allies to strengthen the NLC’s participation during COP 2 and in other spaces related to the protection of defenders.

- **Public Representatives within the Conferences of the Parties of the Escazú Agreement**
  A link and coordination were established to promote actions within COP 2 and during the Environmental Defenders Forum.

- **Global Alliance for Gender and Climate (GAGGA)**
  Works to strengthen the capacities of community groups and movements working towards women’s rights and environmental justice. It has contributed to strengthening the NLC’s line of work with women land and environmental defenders, thereby allowing a greater positioning of their proposals; and the implementation of the Early Legislative Alert System (SALT) in NLC Argentina and NLC Guatemala.

- **National Council for Social Policy Coordination**
  Has been an ally in making progress on the inclusion of land targets in the Argentine government’s voluntary reports on the SDGs.

- **Cultural Survival**
  An Indigenous-led NGO that defends the rights of Indigenous peoples and supports the self-determination, cultures, and political resilience of Indigenous communities. It has been an ally in supporting small projects of Indigenous grassroots organisations that are part of the NLC, and in protecting defenders during the repressions in Jujuy in 2023.
KEY CHALLENGES

CHANGES IN POLICIES AND THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE ARGENTINE STATE

The new government elected in 2023 has carried out structural changes in the state’s institutional framework with the elimination of the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Women, Genders, and Diversity, among others. With this, environmental policies, equality, and human rights policies to which the NLC has contributed since its inception are weakened and cease to be a priority for the executive. These include the National Implementation Plan of the Escazú Agreement and the protection mechanisms for land and environmental defenders that were proposed to be created, as well as gender policies linked to women’s rights in the management of their resources. Additionally, there is an intention to repeal Law 26160 on Indigenous Territorial Emergency, one of the key themes of the land struggle led by the NLC, and which would mean a setback in the guarantee of land rights for the country’s Indigenous peoples and an invitation to their foreignization.

On the other hand, measures to deregulate the economy proposed by the executive aim to promote privatization policies and open the country to greater foreign investment for the exploitation of natural resources, which will have a profoundly negative impact on the lives of Indigenous communities and the environmental sustainability of the country. The new political context represents the greatest challenge for the NLC to continue advancing changes in favour of access, use, and management of land, water, and other natural resources for peasant and Indigenous organisations, women, and youth in Argentina.
INCREASED CRIMINALISATION OF LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

In the context of the global boom in transition minerals, the country’s Indigenous communities living in lithium extraction areas are currently at greater risk of losing their lands and suffering human rights violations. In the current political context, this situation could worsen due to the new government’s tendency to promote extractivist policies and the weakening of protection policies for land and environmental defenders under the Escazú Agreement.

REDUCTION IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FUNDS DIRECTED TO LATIN AMERICA

Argentina is no longer a priority country within the international cooperation agenda. This has impacted the possibility of mobilising resources for the NLC, in addition to the new financing scheme applied by the ILC that prioritises the functioning of the platforms and to a lesser extent the operations. Although the NLC has worked tirelessly to establish partnerships and mobilise resources through a multi-donor budget, the limitation of resources to ensure the implementation of a more comprehensive strategy remains a challenge.

INTERNAL CHALLENGES

Since its inception, the NLC has worked with a cross-cutting gender approach, prioritising work with women across all its thematic lines. This is undoubtedly one of the most striking features of the work the platform has done over the years. Yet, for members, it remains a challenge to strengthen the gender approach among all members. Currently, this vision is led by the women’s committee but is noted to be weaker in the land and territory committee. The youth committee, on the other hand, has brought a renewed perspective on diversities and new relational practices within the NLC. This is an opportunity to introduce new concepts and approaches through greater intergenerational dialogue that integrates ancestral knowledge.
**KEY LESSONS**

**01** A platform that articulates peasant and Indigenous grassroots organisations for dialogue with the State and intergovernmental institutions

Six years of continuous work has allowed the NLC to be recognised as a key actor in the issues it addresses before public, private, and intergovernmental entities, both nationally and internationally. Establishing partnerships has been fundamental to the achievements obtained. This has been possible because the NLC managed to bring together 36 peasant and Indigenous grassroots organisations and work closely with them in identifying their problems and in formulating proposals to address them. The recognition of the NLC by various actors also grants greater legitimacy to the products generated by the platform.

**02** The generation of information and the visibility of the results as a strategy for success

One characteristic of the NLC is its experience in the shadow report drafting cycle for advocacy within the United Nations System. The NLC has managed to develop good practices by producing information and data with the participation of peasant and Indigenous grassroots organisations, equipping them with capacities in information and knowledge management on the most effective routes for monitoring and advocacy around the recommendations that the State must implement. This is also strengthened by the work in knowledge management, which has prioritised the organisation of information and its dissemination through its website and on social networks, permanently.

**03** Good practices for reaching consensus among diverse actors

The NLC is made up of a large number of diverse actors. One lesson learned, after years of joint work, is that the value of the NLC is to be a space for respectful dialogue with the capacity to reach consensus. Among the members, there is a positive valuation of the richness of diversities, identities, cultures that make it up and the importance of seeing in this a complementarity to achieve the objectives proposed as a platform.
The importance of including youth in the governance of the NLC

The NLC Argentina was the first in the LAC region to create a Youth Committee as part of its governance. This has been a reference for other platforms on how to work with youth within the platforms. The NLC identified their areas of interest and the advocacy spaces where their voices were demanded, as in the case of the SDGs. A key lesson learnt is that the existence of this Committee allows focusing on the particular needs of this group and also connecting the youth with regional and global advocacy and learning processes promoted by the ILC.
PLATFORM MEMBERSHIP

ILC MEMBER ORGANISATIONS
Fundación Plurales, Fundapaz, Argentine Agrarian Federation (Federación Agraria de Argentina), and Redes Chaco.

NON-ILC MEMBER ORGANISATIONS
Asociación de Pequeños Productores de Cortadera (association of youth); Movimiento Campesino de Formosa (MoCaFor); Asociación Civil Zonal Los Blancos; Colectivo de Mujeres del Chaco Americano; Asociación Civil de Pequeños Productores de La Candelaria; Frente Mujeres del Salado Norte; Unión de Familias Organizadas de Pequeños Productores de la Cuña Boscosa y Bajos Submeridionales de Santa Fe (UOCB); Encuentro de Organizaciones Campesinas e Indígenas del Norte Argentino (ENCONA); Movimiento de Pequeños Productores de Santa Fe (MOPROFE); Organización Zonal Chaniwhayaj; Mujeres Campesinas Organizadas; Asociación General Belgrano; Grupo de Apoyo Jurídico para el Acceso a la Tierra (GAJAT); Mesa de Organizaciones del Centro de Santiago del Estero (MOCES); Asamblea del Pueblo Guarani; Mesa de Tierra Parroquial de Boquerón; Asociación Civil Unión y Progreso; Asociación Civil Los del Bermejo; Foro de Representantes del Gran Chaco Americano; Coordinadora de Tierras de la Ruta 81; Foro Nacional de la Agricultura Familiar (FoNAF); Dirección General de Programas y Proyectos Sectoriales y Especiales (DIPROSE); Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas (INAI); Instituto de Desarrollo Rural de la Universidad Nacional de Salta; INDES-CONICET-UNSE (National University of Santiago del Estero); ARETEDE Indigenous Women’s Organisation; Grupo de mujeres campesinas MOCAFOR; Unión de Trabajadores de la Tierra (UTT); Asoc. de Peq. Prod. La Minga; ASOCIACIÓN CIVIL TALLER FLOTANTE; RED RIO FEMINISTA; Asociación Civil de la Mujer Rural; MOCASE INSTITUCIONAL; Aborigen Community of Casa Grande, Vizcarra and El Portillo. Women Defenders of the Natural Habitat; Asamblea Pueblo Guaraní APG - Jujuy; Aborigen Community of Caiasta; Red Chacha warmi.

The NLC’s governance is organised by a General Assembly composed of all members; a Directive Commission, composed of the four ILC members; and three thematic work committees created in 2021:

- **NLC Women’s Committee:**
  Facilitated by Fundación Plurales;

- **Youth Committee:**
  Facilitated by Redes Chaco and Fundación Plurales;

- **Land and Territory Committee:**
  Facilitated by Fundapaz and FAA.
6 POLICIES AND PRACTICES

The Agenda of Land and Territory Defenders is included in the National Implementation Plan of the Escazú Agreement

Report of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights to the Argentine State incorporates Complaints from NLC Organisations

The Argentine Government incorporates Land Targets in its Voluntary Reports on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
NATIONAL LAND COALITIONS (NLCs) - previously referred to as NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES (NESs) – are multi-stakeholder platforms set in motion by the International Land Coalition (ILC).

They are led by ILC members and include both members and non-members, to realise the Coalition’s joint goal of people-centred land governance and to push forward national land reform and agendas.