ADVANCING FAMILY FARMING AND PEOPLE-CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE

HOW ILC MEMBERS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO CHANGE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Industrial food production is currently the leading cause of biodiversity loss, while also playing a key role in climate change and pollution worldwide. The United Nations recognises these issues as a “triple planetary crisis” to be urgently addressed in order to secure a sustainable future. On the other hand, Family farmers' and small-scale producers play a vital role in ensuring food security by producing over 80 percent of the world's food. They conserve local ecosystems, biodiversity, natural resources, and traditional knowledge—all while providing employment for numerous communities. Yet despite their multidimensional role, many family farmers and small-scale producers live in or on the edge of poverty and face challenges in accessing land, productive resources and markets. Securing their land rights offers an opportunity to improve their livelihoods and to preserve the custodianship of land at the heart of food systems.

In 2016, members of the International Land Coalition (ILC) articulated efforts on a Global Platform to strengthen support for family farmers and small-scale producers. Following the adoption of the UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDFF) in 2017, dedicated regional Family Farming platforms were launched by ILC members across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) with the support of the Global Platform in 2018-2019. Today, these Family Farming (FF) platforms work to magnify the impact of the UNDFF by strengthening its inclusive implementation, facilitating advocacy dialogues focused on land rights, and by fortifying connections between farmer and civil society organisations, UN agencies, governments, and National Committees of Family Farming (NCFs). The platforms ensure that the UNDFF benefits small-holders and family farmers, and that member and partner contributions are effectively incorporated in the formulation and implementation of public policies, regulatory frameworks, and budget allocations—such as those encompassed within the UNFF National Action Plans (NAPs). Special efforts are also given to develop the capacities of Family Farmer Organisations (FFOs), and People’s Organisations (POs).

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1 Family farming can be defined as “a method of organising agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral, and aquaculture production that is managed by a family, and primarily reliant on their capital and labour.” FAO
Over the last seven years, the FF platforms, their partners, and UNDFF stakeholders have influenced advancements in policies, practices, and agendas related to Family Farming. At the global level, these most notable include the adoption of the UNDFF Decade in 2017, as well as the development of the **UNDFF Global Action Plan (GAP, 2019)** which addresses land in six out of seven of its Guiding Pillars, and incorporates concrete actions for improving the legislative and institutional frameworks on land access, control, and tenure.

ILC platforms and members at the global level have also strengthened the effective governance of the UNDFF, by lobbying for the formal incorporation of ILC members and FFOs in its relevant governance bodies, including the International Steering Committee and the CSO Coordinating Committee.

At regional level, ILC/FF platforms played an active role in the elaboration of **two sub-regional Action Plans**, namely in the **Near East and North Africa (NENA)** region, and in **South Asia**, with its regional body, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

At country level, **12 UNDFF National Family Farming Action Plans** have been adopted as of October 2023, thanks to fruitful collaborations among hundreds of stakeholders, including, among others- Family Farmer Organisations, National Committees of Family Farming, national governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as ILC’s member-led National Land Coalitions (NLC) platforms.

To date, **three NLCs have directly contributed to the development and/or implementation of UNDFF NAPs**, namely in **Kyrgyzstan** (2022), **Peru** (2019), and the **Philippines** (2021). Support to the NAP drafting process is currently carried out by the NLCs in Argentina and Togo, as well as by ILC/FF LAC platform member COPROFAM in Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

This report summarises the key changes contributed to by ILC platforms, members and partners in advocating for progressive policies, practices and agendas with a focus on people-centred land governance (PCLG) within the UNDFF framework. The report also highlights the alignment of these changes with **ILC’s 2022-2030 Strategy** and transformative agenda to promote a land governance that serves the needs of people who live on and from the land, and to position land rights as a key solution to address global challenges.
UNITED NATIONS
DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING 2019-2028
AND THE ILC

In December 2017, following a robust civil society campaign coordinated by ILC member World Rural Forum (WRF), the UN General Assembly (UNGA) unanimously declared the Decade of Family Farming for 2019-2028. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) were designated by UNGA to lead the Decade’s implementation, along with a range of actors including the National Committees for Family Farming (NCFFs), various family farming networks, policy dialogue platforms, ILC members and National Land Coalitions, among others.

UNDFF GLOBAL ACTION PLAN

The Decade’s Global Action Plan (GAP) provides guidance on actions to support family farmers worldwide. Its participatory formulation saw a key moment during the VI Global Conference (March 2019) organised by the World Rural Forum and its joint CSO Declaration that garnered the signatures of over 100 organisations and civil society platforms. Notably, 80% of these CSO inputs and recommendations were incorporated in the final Global Action Plan launched in 2019.

Thanks in part to advocacy by ILC members and partners, land is one of the issues specifically referenced in 6 out of the 7 GAP’s mutually reinforcing work pillars, with indicative actions referring to the improvement of the legislative and institutional frameworks on access, control and tenure of land. Today, the ILC’s FF platforms work towards the inclusive implementation of the GAP- particularly its pillars 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR FAMILY FARMING & UNDFF ACTION PLANS

The National Committees for Family Farming (NCFFs) are political dialogue platforms led by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to promote public policies and investment planning on issues including land rights, seeds, ecosystem health, gender equality and youth, among others.

2 The VI Global Conference (organised by the WRF) was attended by a wide array of stakeholders, all of which provided inputs to the GAP- including government representatives, FAO, IFAD representatives from all regions and the global level, ILC members, family farming organisations, NCFFs, research centres, NGOs, among others.

3 The seven GAP pillars include: 1- Development of an enabling policy environment; 2- Generational sustainability; 3- Gender equity; 4- Strengthening of family farmers’ organisations; 5- Improvement of socio-economic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers; 6- Promotion of family farming to face climate change; 7- Strengthening of the multidimensionality of family farming.
Today, over 45 NCFFs work to support UNDFF implementation at the country level and have contributed to over 50 new laws and regulations in support of family farming around the world. These encompass public policies, programs, institutional frameworks, funds, as well as UNDFF National Action Plans.

The National Action Plans (NAPs) serve as roadmaps to implement the UNDFF at the national level, where public policies, programmes and regulations can have the greatest impact. The Plans are elaborated and approved by state institutions together with civil society organisations participating in the NCFFs. By 2024, the UNDFF strives to have 100 NAPs in place, providing a valuable opportunity for ILC members and initiatives to channel their advocacy efforts. As of October 2023, 12 NAPs have been approved, 16 are in the drafting process, while 25 countries are mobilising stakeholders.

At the regional level, the formulation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs) is supported by various regional intergovernmental organisations such as FAO and IFAD, as well as regional farmers’ organisations including ILC members AFA (Asian Farmers Association), COPROFAM (Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del Mercosur Ampliado), PDRR (Plataforma de Diálogo Regional Rural), PROPAC (Regional Platform of Farmers’ Organizations in Central Africa), and ROPPA (Network of Farmers’ and Producers’ Organizations in West Africa), among others. Notable advancements have been achieved at the sub-regional level, with three sub-regional action plans elaborated, one in the advanced drafting process, and mobilisation efforts ongoing in West and Central Africa (WRF, 2023).

UNDFF INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

The International Steering Committee (ISC) is comprised of UN Organisations (FAO, IFAD, and WFP), UN Member States4, and key Family Farming Organisations, including the ILC members AFA, COPROFAM, ROPPA, and WRF that oversee the implementation of the Decade.

UNDFF WORLD CSO COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The UNDFF’s World CSO Coordinating Committee (WCC) unites a range of CSOs, FF networks, NGOs, rural associations and others to promote the Decade, track key priorities, coordinate participation, and present proposals to UNDFF bodies. The World Rural Forum serves as the WCC’s Secretariat, while other members include AFA, COPROFAM, ROPPA and PROPAC that in turn strengthen coordination between ILC platforms and the WCC. The International Land Coalition also serves as a permanent observer in the WCC.

As of October 2023, 12 NAPs have been approved, 16 are in the drafting process, while 25 countries are mobilising stakeholders.

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4 Two UN member state countries per region, rotating every 11 months.
TIMELINE & THEORY OF CHANGE

Photo: ©ILC/IFAD Image Bank, The Philippines
UNDFF ACHIEVEMENTS AND ILC CONTRIBUTIONS

This section provides an overview of the main achievements in the framework of the UN Decade of Family Farming, along with relevant contributions by ILC platforms, members, and partners since 2016.

2016

- The **Platform on Family Farming launches** under the leadership of ILC member World Rural Forum.
- In **Peru**, the regulations for the Law on the Promotion and Development of Family Farming are approved, and the **National Family Farming Strategy (ENAF 2015-2021)** is elaborated. ILC/NLC members directly contribute to these processes.

2017

- **UNGA**, at its 72nd Session on 20 December 2017, proclaims the **Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028**. The advocacy process, including the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) and the IYFF10+ initiatives, is led by WRF and supported by numerous ILC members.

2018

- **ILC’s Bandung Declaration (GLF 2018)** recognises that “The UN Decade of Family Farming provides a positive context for agrarian reform and helps governments ensure that family farmers, pastoralists and Indigenous Peoples play a role as stewards of healthy territories and ecosystems.”
- The ILC member-led regional **platform for Family Farming launches in Asia**.

2019

- The **ILC-member led regional platform for Family Farming** launches in Latin America and the Caribbean
- The **advocacy of the Global FF Platform**, its partners and other actors ensure a wide representation of CSOs, particularly regional FOs, in the UNDFF International Steering Committee. **ILC members AFA, COPROFAM, ROPPA, and WRF are incorporated as ISC members**.
- In March, **WRF organises the VI Global FF Conference** to contribute to the design of the UNDFF Agenda and the Global Action Plan. A **joint CSO Declaration** mentioning land is formulated and signed by over 100 organisations and civil society platforms, representing millions of family farmers.
» In May, the **UNDFF Global Action Plan officially launches**. Land is clearly pointed out in 6 out of the 7 pillars of the Global Action Plan, incorporating 80% of CSO inputs.

» In November, a **National Action Plan is approved in Indonesia**. The Indonesian NCFF approaches the ILC/FF Asia platform member KPA to engage in its formulation.

» In November, a **National Action Plan (PLANAF) is approved in Peru** with the direct involvement of NLC/ILC members.

» In **Peru**, Table No. 5 of the Multisectoral Commission “**Multisectoral dialogue table for the analysis and identification of alternative solutions to the problem of the agricultural sector**” is approved. ILC/NLC members contribute directly to the process.

» The **Declaration of Bavaro** is formulated as part of the Regional Launch of the Decade in LAC in the Dominican Republic.

» In **Africa**, ILC member PROPAC advances the elaboration of a UNDFF Regional Action Plan for Central Africa, co-financed by the Economic Community of Central African States.

### 2020

» **National Action Plans are approved** in Brazil, Costa Rica and Nepal.

» The **FAFO Declaration** is adopted at the IFAD Farmers Forum, incorporating numerous proposals made by FFOs, including ILC/FF platform members AFA, COPROFAM, and ROPPA.

» **New NCFFs** are created in the Central African Republic, Gabon, Guinea, and Spain

### 2021

» In May, a **National Action Plan is approved in the Philippines**, with explicit reference to land and with key inputs by NLC/ILC members.

» In July, the **Regional Action Plan for Strengthening Family Farming in South Asia** is elaborated in close collaboration with FAO and ILC Asia member AFA.

» In November, a **law establishing regulations for public food procurement** requiring a minimum of 30% of purchases to be sourced from family farms, and establishing a procedure of public procurement committees for FF is approved in Peru (no. 31071). NLC/ILC members directly contribute to the process.

» People’s and Farmers organisations, including ILC members, contribute to the **Report A/76/233: Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028)** submitted to the UN General Assembly thanks to advocacy by the ISC, WCC and other CSO spaces.
In February, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in Guatemala assigns a budget to strengthen initiatives of family and Indigenous farmers following a meeting set up by ILC/NLC members with the Ministry.

In March, the FF Technical Board for formulating the NAP in Ecuador is reactivated by the Ministry of Agriculture, with high engagement of NLC/FF platform members.

In April, a National Action Plan is adopted in Sierra Leone. The Global FF platform supports the relevant government dialogues.

In June, at the 28th session of FAO’s Agricultural Committee, the Resolution on “The catalyser role of the UN Decade of Family Farming and progress towards its implementation” (COAG/2022/11) is adopted. The collaborative efforts between FFOs, POS- including ILC members AFA, COPROFAM, ROPPA, and WRF- with the ISC and the UNDFF Secretariat leads to the inclusion of the agenda item at COAG, and facilitates dialogues with governments that culminate in its adoption.

In June, in LAC, a draft FF Action Plan for the expanded Mercosur region is formulated, alongside a regional report on FF and the SDG 2030 agenda. LAC platform members contribute to the formulation of both reports.

In June, in LAC, ILC members from the Semiaridos platform are integrated in the Climate Change Commission of the REAF Specialised Meeting on Family Farming, representing a shift by the regional dialogue body towards greater openness to civil society groups.

In September, the Sustainable Agriculture Policy in DRC is approved, with support from ILC/NLC members. The policy notably sets out to facilitate land access and tenure security, as well as to promote sustainable land and resource management.

In August, a National Action Plan is adopted in Kyrgyzstan, with inputs from the NLC platform and the support of the Global FF platform.

In April, the Southern Common Market (Mercosur) Group approves a “Recommendation on the UNDFF 2019-2028” (Mercosur/GMC/Acta No 1/23) to reaffirm the role of the Specialised Meeting on Family Farming (REAF) in UNDFF coordination. LAC FF Platform members are involved in the drafting of the plan. The recommendation initiates the drafting process for National Action Plans by the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay together with national FF organisations, including ILC/FF LAC platform members.
ALIGNMENT WITH ILC’S THEORY OF CHANGE

ILC’s 2022-2030 Strategy puts land rights at the centre of meeting the most urgent challenges of our time: avoiding catastrophic climate breakdown, building peaceful and democratic societies, sustainable and resilient local food systems, and overcoming growing inequality—particularly gender inequality.

The 2030 Strategy comprises three strategic objectives that guide the work of ILC’s membership and network to secure land rights for and with people, namely through support to (i) National Land Coalitions, (ii) the generation and use of people’s data for accountability, and (iii) regional and global advocacy with the aim to influence governments, traditional authorities, and corporations to realise people-centred land governance. Guided by our ethos of a systems change approach, work towards ILC’s strategic objectives is planned alongside and in support of one another.
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. These platforms bring together various land actors, including People’s Organisations, CSOs, local communities, intergovernmental organisations, research centres, government entities, among others, to find lasting solutions to land governance. To date, ILC has supported NLCs in 30 countries where they play a key role in accelerating the recognition, defence and protection of land rights, and are complemented by joint efforts with ILC’s regional and global thematic platforms.

ILC’s Family Farming platforms collaborate with NLCs on the elaboration and development of Regional and National Action Plans, among other FF-related policies and practices. To date, 11 NLCs have directly engaged with the UNDFF process or its actors - namely in Argentina, Colombia, DRC, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania, and Togo - while ILC members and platforms are currently mobilising stakeholders in Bolivia, Cameroon, Kenya, and Uganda to engage with the UNDFF. Notably, such collaborations have contributed to the incorporation of ILC member inputs in the National Action Plans in Kyrgyzstan, Peru, and the Philippines.

NATIONAL ACTION PLANS CATALYSED
BY ILC MEMBERS AND PLATFORMS

Kyrgyzstan

As the country’s first FF-dedicated policy, the National FF Action Plan approved by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Agriculture in October 2022 marks a significant stride towards a conducive policy environment for family farmers and rural communities in the country. The plan sets out to enhance citizen welfare, bolster food security, and enhance accessibility to natural resources for landless populations, women, and young farmers. Moreover, the NAP specifically endeavours to secure equal rights for women and girls in land ownership and resource control, and aligns with the development of key legislative measures, such as the Forest Use law, with which NLC/ILC members are likewise highly involved with.

5 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.
A distinctive aspect of the Kyrgyz NAP was its collaborative development (through a WRF/EU project) with FFOs that emerged from diverse multi-stakeholder policy forums, engaging state bodies concerned with the economy, environment, health, education, youth, and women - together with the National Committee for Family Farming. The Kyrgyz NCFF is led by the ILC member National Union of Water Users Associations (NUWUA), while its membership is composed of other organisations affiliated with the National Land Coalition. National ILC members played a key role in the formulation of the comprehensive plan that not only incorporates the interests of various stakeholders, but moreover encompasses the pertinent activities and thematic foci of ILC members, including land.

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6 This inclusive process was orchestrated under the guidance of the Interdepartmental Working Group within the Ministry of Agriculture, and benefited from the insights of both domestic and international experts from FAO.
Peru

Since 2015, the ILC/NLC members in Peru have engaged in dialogues with the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI), and directly contributed to the development of the legislative framework for family farming—starting with the Law on the Promotion and Development of Family Farming (No. 30355, 2015), and the National Family Farming Strategy (ENAF 2015–2021) and its regulations in 2016, jointly formulated with the multi-sectoral Commission for the Promotion of Family Farming. These developments paved the way for the approval of the UNDEF National Action Plan in 2019, which incorporates a territorial approach thanks in part to the sustained advocacy efforts of ILC members and partners.

ILC members, partners and platforms in Peru have furthermore influenced the set-up of a Multi-actor Dialogue Roundtable on the Agrarian Sector that responded to the demands of over three million agricultural producers; the approval of agricultural vouchers for family and smallholder farmers as part of the government’s COVID-19 economic reactivation measures; as well as the enactment of Law 31071 and its regulations to govern state purchases of agricultural products which requires state programs to allocate a minimum of 30% of budgets to procure food from family farming sources.

A further key achievement, which arose in response to requests from the NLC’s Women’s, Indigenous, and non-governmental organisations, among others—saw the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation establish Directorates for the Promotion of Women Agrarian Producers, as well as for the Development of Peasant, Native, and Social Management Communities (MIDAGRI DS 080-2021).

These outcomes catalysed by ILC/NLC members and partners marked significant milestones in support of family farmers in Peru, and helped open avenues for technical assistance, the prioritisation of land titling processes for peasant and native communities, as well as the fostering of gender inclusivity in decision-making processes in the country.

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7 Through Decreto N° 015-2016-MINAGRI
8 Through DS No. 012-2021-MIDAGRI
9 implemented through DS N° 012-2021-MIDAGRI
Philippines

The ILC members involved in the National Land Coalition in the Philippines include numerous prominent Family Farming Organisations, such as the Asian Farmers’ Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), the National Confederation of Family Farmers’ Organisations (PAKISAMA), and the Xavier Science Foundation (XSF). These, along with their partners and other stakeholders, including the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)- have directly contributed to various national policy changes in light of the ongoing agrarian reform process. Among the most notable of these is the formulation and approval of the UNDFF National Action Plan 2019-2028 (PAP4FF) that incorporates an overt mention to land governance. The NLCC's partnerships with key actors- including with the DAR, IFAD, the World Bank, among others, have allowed for a wider integration of CSO inputs by establishing an enabling, multi-actor policy environment.

Other key contributions by NLC members in relation to Family Farming in the Philippines include inputs to the Environmental and Social Management Framework component of the Support to Parcelization towards Individual Titling (SPLIT) project that sets out to stabilise the property rights of agrarian reform beneficiaries, including family and small-scale farmers in the country.
**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2**

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

ILC facilitates the collection, management, and use of people’s data on land rights—especially by People’s Organisations—in order to raise awareness of structural inequalities and to build collective advocacy actions. ILC members receive training and support to utilise this data to promote transparency, demand accountability, and monitor progress towards sustainable development across all levels. ILC’s established expertise in the generation and use of peoples’ data is leveraged in strategic advocacy and policy discussions to raise awareness of structural inequalities, holding key actors accountable, while promoting system-wide change.

**LANDEX: ILC’S GLOBAL LAND GOVERNANCE INDEX**

**ILC’s Land Governance Index (LANDex)** is a global tool built in consultation with ILC members and partners that puts people at the centre of land data to ensure that their voices, perspectives and situations are visible, while democratising processes of land monitoring. LANDex is used to overcome data fragmentation and to complement official datasets, often by working closely with national statistics offices and global data custodians. As of October 2023, LANDex data has been generated in 31 countries, with full datasets available in 26 countries\(^1\).

**ILC’s Family Farming Platforms utilise LANDex data for evidence-based dialogue with decision makers about the current state of support to family farmers, and to hold states accountable for their commitments on family farming, specifically within relevant frameworks such as the SDGs, VGGTs and the UNDFF.**

In the framework of the **UNDFF monitoring and evaluation system**, the FF Platforms also use LANDex indicators related to family farming and land distribution to feed advocacy efforts, including the rates of available technical and financial assistance, support for transitions to agroecology, among other data points.

LANDex indicators relevant to family farming systems are as follows:

- **Indicator 2A**: The legal and institutional framework in place at national level supports family farmers. Data for this indicator is available in 28 countries.
- **Indicator 2B**: National budget and support programs are dedicated to family farming. Data for this indicator is available in 23 countries.
- **Indicator 2C.1**: Equitable land distribution by size. Data for this indicator is available in 118 countries.
- **Indicator 2C.2**: Productivity gap. Data for this indicator is available in 40 countries.

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\(^1\) EMENA: Albania, Jordan, Kosovo; LAC: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru; Asia: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines; Africa: Cameroon, Kenya, Liberia, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Uganda
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ADVOCACY BUILDS POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO PEOPLE-CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE

ILC’s 2030 strategy recognises the convening and advocacy power of the coalition through its regional and global platforms. These thematic member-led platforms work to amplify the voices of ILC members – especially women and youth – to create enabling environments and to build political commitment towards people-centred land governance in global and regional advocacy spaces.

The ILC-supported platforms on Family Farming fall under and feed the work of its Strategic Objective 3, and are focused on ILC Commitment 2: Strong Small-scale Farming Systems to ensure equitable land distribution and public investment in small-scale farming systems. They are also linked to ILC’s Commitment 7: Inclusive decision-making to ensure that decision-making processes around land are inclusive, as well as with Commitment 4 on the Equal land rights for women to ensure gender justice in relation to land. The FF platforms build synergies with other ILC-supported thematic platforms, such as those on Women’s Land Rights (Mujer Rural), Semiaridos, as well as to the National Land Coalitions.

The following section provides an overview of the ILC-supported platforms on Family Farming at the Global level, as well as its regional counterparts in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

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ILC members agreed on 10 commitments in priority areas of action to guide our individual and collective efforts to achieve land governance for and with people. The 10 commitments express our common vision and guide ILC’s work at all levels of action under our 2016-21 Strategy. They serve as a guideline for implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGTs) and other internationally agreed-upon instruments. They also serve as a compass for our work, and we hope that they will be useful to others working on a transformative land rights agenda.
ILC’S FAMILY FARMING PLATFORMS:
AN OVERVIEW

GLOBAL FAMILY FARMING PLATFORM

Since its formulation in 2016, the Global FF Platform has worked to amplify the UNDFF’s impact by contributing to the inclusive implementation of its Action Plan while advancing people-centred land governance. The Global FF Platform is spearheaded by People’s Organisations and is primarily composed of FFOs that represent over 35 million family farmers in 95 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Platform’s Steering Committee is likewise composed of FFOs, and serves to guide the execution of its strategy, work plans, and evaluation processes. The ILC member WRF serves as the host of the platform.

As set out in its 2023-2025 Strategy, the Platform’s overarching goal is to develop an enabling policy environment to advance people-centred land governance and the SDG 2030 Agenda, while recognising and strengthening the transformative role of family farmers in confronting global challenges.

In particular, the 2023-25 Strategy sets out two key outcome areas - namely that:

» Secure land rights are positioned as a key element to leverage the central role of family farmers in food systems transformation and climate action through the effective engagement and influence of FFOs in the global interconnected processes of the UNDFF, SDGs, UNFCCC, and food systems transformation.

» ILC network members, especially family farmers’ organisations, rural women and youth, have stronger capacities to coordinate advocacy actions, lead alliances, and strengthen their transformative role.

To this end, the platform also aims to strengthen FFO voices in other, interconnected global processes such as the transformation of food systems and climate change.

ILC members and platforms have seen notable progress in their work at the global level to ensure that the centrality of land in building sustainable food systems is emphasised in the outcomes of key advocacy spaces, dialogues and meetings, such as the UN Food Systems Summit Dialogues12.

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12 ILC platforms, members and partners collaborate with the Food System summit’s action track IV to Advance Equitable Livelihoods, and have officially registered a commitment to continue working on land issues in the development of sustainable food systems. In 2021, ILC co-convened three regional independent dialogues with 280 land rights experts at the UN Food Systems Summit to promote the centrality of land rights in building sustainable food systems.
Land and PCLG principles have also been integrated as a key focus area through ILC member involvement in the UNDFF's World CSO Coordinating Committee. As a result, land is now widely incorporated in meeting agendas, and disseminated more widely through knowledge products, such as the ILC Land Inequality Report (2021), and the Guide on International and Regional Instruments to Defend and Promote the Interests and Rights of Family Farmers produced by the FF global platform, among others. Further incorporations of land have been achieved in various CSO Declarations arising from regional FF gatherings, WCC/ISC agendas, as well as in the knowledge and data products produced by platform members.

The Global platform has moreover strengthened the participation of FFOs, NCFFs, and NLCs in the formulation and/or implementation of National Action Plans, alongside other policy enhancements in thematic areas such as agroecology, climate change, natural resource access, research and innovation, public procurement, market access, gender equity, women’s leadership, and youth involvement. These efforts span across 45 countries, with support from several projects co-financed by the European Union, FAO, IFAD, among others. The Global platform has likewise facilitated and reinforced the links between NLCs and NCFFs as a means to strengthen the capacity of ILC members to influence decision-making processes by engaging in the UNDFF, such as in Madagascar, Tanzania, Senegal, Kyrgyzstan, Albania, the Philippines Colombia, Ecuador, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Togo.

Thanks to the sustained and coordinated advocacy efforts by various actors and platforms, including the ILC-supported Global FF members-Governments, FFOs, and other CSO actors have increased joint efforts to improve family farming policies. Governments in particular are now increasingly open to incorporate CSO proposals, develop NAPs, and commit to the implementation of the Decade. Through NCFFs and FFOs, the global FF platform has directly supported dialogue with governments (primarily with Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development) in over 50 countries.

Moreover, the platform has promoted the engagement of ILC’s CSO network as per their participation in UNDFF governance (ISC, CSOs Coordination Committee), and in the Decade’s participatory monitoring and reporting mechanism. To this end, the UNDFF’s biannual reports serve to establish a clear link with the Voluntary National Reports (VRN) of the SDG 2030 Agenda. In July 2021, the first Biennium report was submitted by the UNDFF Joint Secretariat to the UN General Assembly with the active involvement of the Global FF platform, that worked

13 ILC members part of the WCC include ROPPA, PROPAC, FAA-COPROFAM, AFA, OXFAM, IFOAM, and WRF

14 To this end, the global platform has organised events on the engagement of rural youth in the transformation of food systems, such as through session in the Global Conference on FF and Food Systems in 2021 (organised by WRF and the EU), as well as through the 2021 Young Farmers’ Roundtable during the World Food Forum Week, among others.
to ensure the participation of People’s Organisations, FFOs, NCFFs in the process.

As per its thematic focus on Women’s land rights, the platform engaged Women from FFOs in promoting Sustainable Development Goal 5. This was primarily achieved through contributions to a participatory roadmap with actionable proposals for Women’s access, control, and tenure of land—jointly designed with key regional FFOs (COPROFAM, AFA, ROPPA, PROPAC), Women’s organisations (REFACOF, FADEMUR, Women’s Secretariat of CONTAG), and led by the WRF in collaboration with FAO.

FAMILY FARMING PLATFORM IN ASIA

Formulated in 2018, the ILC-supported FF platform in Asia incorporates 18 ILC members in seven countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, and the Philippines) seeking to foster a favourable policy environment for land tenure and sustainable agriculture, as well as to advance robust small-scale farming, equitable land distribution, and investments to support family farmers, multi-stakeholder platforms and the National Committees for Family Farming (NCFFs). The ILC/FF platform member, the Asian Farmers Association (AFA)—a regional alliance of 22 national family farming organisations—has been co-coordinating the regional platform since 2018, together with ILC member ArNow!, the platform’s host.

At the regional level, work to strengthen FFOs has allowed for a better political positioning to influence the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). These efforts, along with those of their members, partners and other actors, contributed to the ASEAN adopting several key strategic documents, including guidelines for responsible agro-investments, an action plan on food security, a roadmap for agri-cooperatives and farmer producer companies, as well as the 2021 sub-regional UNDFF Action Plan for South Asia with the support and inputs of platform/ILC members. At the national level, the work of ILC members and partners notably contributed to the formulation of the National Action Plans in Kyrgyzstan and the Philippines—both of which incorporate overt mentions to the centrality of land.

15 The ILC members involved in the Family Farming platform in Asia include AFA, ALRD, ANGOC, AR NOW!, CARBID, CDFA, CSRC, FNN, KAFU, KPA, NLRF, NUWUA, PAKISAMA, SARRA, STAR KAMPUCHEA, SWADHINA, TFM, and XSF.

16 In Nepal, the NLC facilitated the involvement of ILC members NLRF and CSRC in the NFCC following the adoption of the NAP in 2015.

17 AFA has also been highly involved in the IYFF 2014, and served as a member of the WCC of the IYFF+10, while some ILC members are also part of AFA’s membership, including FNN (Cambodia), PAKISAMA (Philippines), UWUA (Kyrgyzstan), and NLRF (Nepal).

18 In Indonesia, the NCFF approached ILC/FF Asia platform member KPA regarding the formulation.
FAMILY FARMING PLATFORM IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Established in 2018, La Iniciativa de Agricultura Familiar, the ILC member-led Family Farming platform in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), works to advance public policies on family farming by assisting the implementation of the UNDFF Global Action Plan. The platform’s objectives are centred on securing land access and territorial rights, fostering inclusive decision-making, and promoting sustainable and resilient agri-food systems that address climate change. The LAC platform comprises 27 ILC members across 11 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Venezuela), and also collaborates with other ILC-supported regional thematic platforms, namely Semiaridos, Land and SDGs, and Rural Women.

At the regional level, members of the FF LAC Platform play an active role in key dialogue spaces, such as the specialised Meeting on Family Farming (REAF MERCOSUR), Alliance for Food Sovereignty, Committee on World Food Security (CFS), sub-regional meetings for the IFAD Global Farmers’ Forum, as well as spaces to monitor the Decade’s commitments convened by FAO.

At the sub-regional level in the Mercosur region, ILC/FF platform members successfully incorporated key themes in the advanced draft of the 2023 Regional Plan for implementing the Decade. Notably, these encompass secure access to land, water, and territory rights for family farmers, as well as the promotion of agroecology as means to transition away from dominant extractive practices and foster rural livelihood opportunities for the youth and women. In the initial discussions to formulate the plan, the theme of secure land tenure rights for family and young farmers did not occupy a central role. However, thanks to advocacy by platform members and partners, land rights were incorporated in the plan currently awaiting approval from governments. ILC/Global FF platform members COPROFAM (a founding member of the REAF), and the World Rural Forum are particularly engaged in promoting UNDFF implementation with REAF, FAO, and government representatives.

19 ILC members participating in the innovative include: Accion Campesina, RENAF, CCDACDS, CEPES, CERDET, COCOCOCH, CODECA, CONPROFAM, ECOMMUNIS, FAA, FEPP, FUNDACION NATIVO, IEE, Las Brumas Union of Women’s Cooperatives, Luna Creciente, DNAMIP, OIJOT, PDRR, REDES CHACO, SABA, SIPAE, UMCAH, UTC, UWOC, WRF. ILC member RENAF (Red Nacional de Agricultura Familiar) currently serves as the focal point, while its administrative host is ATI (Asociación de Trabajo Interdisciplinario).

20 These joint efforts have included supporting youth agroecology internships with the Semiaridos platform, the co-authoring of a regional FF report analysing public policies related to the implementation of the NAP and SDG targets 1.4, 2.3, and 5.a together with the Land and SDGs platform, as well as the development of communication materials to highlight the action proposals of FF women, undertaken in partnership with the Rural Women’s Platform.

21 The LAC Civil Society Mechanism for the SDGs within the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) acknowledged the valuable contributions made by the Family Farming Platform in the areas of land rights, agriculture, rural women, and indigenous and rural communities. As a result, CEPAL incorporated the perspectives of the participating members in the National Voluntary Reviews (NVRs) undertaken by six countries in 2021.
Their activities encompass co-organising events, participating in coordination committees, articulating proposals, and encouraging stakeholder engagement for NAP adoption and implementation.

In April 2023, the Mercosur Group also approved the “Recommendation on the UN Decade of Family Farming” (Acta Nº 1/23) that reaffirms the essential role of REAF in coordinating the UNDFFF, and serves as an institutional framework for its implementation. Furthermore, it instructs REAF to provide annual reports on FF-relevant regional strategies, national plans, and policies. As a result, the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay have initiated the drafting of UNDFFF NAPs, and have started dialogues with national FFOs.

**In the Andes region**, progress was made in 2022-2023 to establish a working group focused on family farming for regional advocacy among platform members. The group aims to establish a shared understanding of family farming by incorporating concepts developed by members in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru while promoting joint advocacy efforts. Moreover in 2023, a sub-regional report for Central America addressing the implementation of public policies on Family, Peasant, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant Agriculture (PAFCIA) was formulated by FAO, with the participation of FF platform members.

**At the national level** in LAC, the FF platform collaborates with ILC’s National Land Coalitions in Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Peru. Through these collaborations, advancements have been achieved—particularly in Peru, where the NLC/FF platforms and partners made significant contributions to the development of the legislative framework for family farming (refer to section on Strategic objective 1); as well as in Argentina, where the FF/NLC platforms played a crucial role in the regulation of a **Law on the Historical Repair of Family Farming**

Importantly, the FF LAC platform places special emphasis on activities related to ensuring gender equality in their advocacy efforts, involving activities to empower women’s groups and to drive structural changes to dismantle patriarchal culture and discriminatory land distribution practices. The platform facilitated debates on strengthening Women’s participation in policy discussions on family farming in Guatemala, while in Colombia, guidelines have been established for a public policy of family farming (Resolution 464 of 2017) that incorporates a gender approach; whereas in Brazil, members of COPROFAM have promoted learning exchanges on the organisational and productive processes led by rural women.

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22 Law 27.118, 2022: The regulation of the law had been awaited since 2014, and serves to set out the creation of a Land Bank to support the development of enterprises produced by family, peasant, and indigenous agriculture. The NLC and LAC FF Platform members worked together and alongside their partners to provide inputs for an advocacy report used within the NCFF committee to support the regulation process. Despite these significant advancements, the funds are yet to be allocated, and the NLC continues to advocate for its implementation.
FAMILY FARMING PLATFORM IN AFRICA

In Africa, ILC’s Family Farming platform “**Strong small-scale Farming Systems**” operates in Central, Eastern, Western and Southern Africa- and is led by the ILC members Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF), Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA), Regional Platform of Farmers’ Organisations in Central Africa (PROPAC), the Network of Peasant Organisations, and the Agricultural Producers in West Africa (ROPPA).

The Africa FF platform’s 2023-2025 strategy seeks to enhance the inclusion and empower Women and youth, advocate for supportive policies, enhance climate action and resilience building, strengthen the capacities and knowledge of smallholder farmers, as well as stakeholder collaborations.

**At the national level**, national ILC/FF members work to influence the development, implementation and promotion of FF-related policies, including together with the NFFCs in the DRC and Togo.

**At the global level**, ILC members and key FF organisations from Africa, namely ROPPA and PROPAC\(^{23}\), hold significant influence in the UNDFF, with both serving as members of the World CSO Coordination Committee. ROPPA is furthermore a member of the UNDFF’s International Steering Committee, whereas PROPAC was an active participant in the IYFF 2014.

\(^{23}\) Several member organisations of both ROPPA and PROPAC are also ILC members
GLOBAL
AND REGIONAL
FF PLATFORM
MEMBERSHIP

AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

The ILC members Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Development (AFA), Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del Sur (COPROFAM), Regional Platform of Farmers’ Organizations in Central Africa (PROPAC), Programa de Diálogo Regional Rural (PDRR), Network of Farmers’ and Producers’ Organizations in West Africa (ROPPA), are the main implementing partners of the global FF platform, along with the World Rural Forum. Non-ILC members also collaborate with the Platform, including FFOs at both national and regional levels; NGOs, public institutions, research centres, cooperation agencies, among others.

The main stakeholders that the global platform collaborates with include, among others:

Civil Society (actors and beneficiaries):
» Regional Family Farmers’ Organisations and other Family Farmers’ Organizations (FFOs)
» Rural development organisations
» National/International NGOs
» Rural women and women organisations
» Young farmers organisations
» Consumers and other CSOs

Public Sector:
» International Organizations and UN System: IFAD, FAO, WFP, UN General Assembly and UN Committees, UN Conferences to the UNFCCC, UNCTAD
» Regional integration bodies/economic communities: REAF Mercosur, CAC-SICA, ECOWAS, ECCAS, ASEAN, SAARC.
» Governmental bodies: presidency, ministries, parliaments, public agencies, specialised public bodies

Private Sector:
» Agricultural Cooperatives
» Individual Producers, marketers, input service providers
» Private foundations
- International Steering Committee of the UNDFF
- World CSOs Coordination Committee of the UNDFF
- ILC Global/regional initiatives and NLCs
- National Committees for Family Farming (NCFF)
- Other platforms of policy dialogue to build public policies at national and regional levels
- Academy/Research Centres

### Africa RP FF Platform ILC Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Network of Peasant Organizations and Agricultural Producers in West Africa (ROPPA)</td>
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### Asia RP FF Platform ILC Membership

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Family farmers and small-scale producers play a vital role in ensuring food security & biodiversity.
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