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# Land Governance Working Group:

## Creating policies to protect landless communities' rights to food and land

**Securing land rights is the key to end poverty and build peaceful and just societies. However, land governance is complex and deeply rooted in unequal power relations. To those working to secure land rights, it is clear that this cannot be addressed in isolation.**

That is why the International Land Coalition (ILC) has been building and strengthening partnerships based on trust to solve land governance challenges. National Engagement Strategies - "NES" – are multi-stakeholder platforms led by national actors that simplify and unpack land governance complexities, using ILC's 10 commitments to people-centred land governance as their compass, while promoting the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure (VGGT).

Based on **collaboration and evidence-based policy dialogue**, NES platforms set priorities and design legitimate solutions to the most challenging land-related issues in a country. NES platforms include ILC members and non-members and aim at **bridging the gap between** national and local government, international agencies, and civil society, providing a space to share knowledge and complement each other to improve land governance.

NES Nepal / Land Governance Working Group (LGWG) is interested in exploring together how donor institutions and strategic partners can engage in this partnership between civil society and the government at the local and national levels to complement and link our efforts to reach the **Sustainable Development Goals** by securing land rights.

### Major land governance challenges in Nepal

Historically unequal and discriminatory land distribution have placed land governance at the centre of politics in Nepal. Although land reform has promoted security for tenant farmers, landless Dalits and others living on land informally, a large amount of agricultural land is still under a tenancy system and implementation is not effective, with women, low-caste, agricultural labourers, ex-bonded labourers and landless people still living in precarious situations, unable to claim formal rights over the land they occupy.



NES Nepal has initiated a broader Land Governance Working Group (LGWG), formalised under the leadership of the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation (MOLMCPA) which brings together government agencies and CSOs. While NES Nepal uses LGWG as a catalyst for policy dialogue, it also continues relying on the different expertise of its members to advance people-centred land governance at community level.

In 2019, NES Nepal piloted LANDex, the global land governance index, to monitor land governance and track progress on land-related indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Government officials are interested in using LANDex as a tool for data collection.

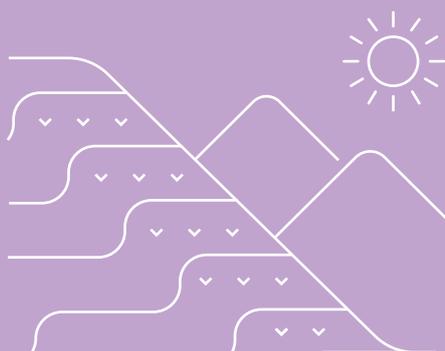


The **overarching objective** of NES Nepal is to enhance the socio-economic condition of landless, tenants and smallholders through improved land governance by

1. facilitating access to and ownership of land for land poor/deprived agricultural households through pro-poor land policies and legislation
2. strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement to formulate and implement pro-poor and gender sensitive land related policies and acts
3. increasing engagement of policy- and change-makers in the Land Governance Working Group (LGWG) as a common space to define joint actions to translate pro-poor principles enshrined in the Constitution and other policies into reality

**The priorities for NES Nepal are to:**

- Coordinate and collaborate with different government bodies, international organisations and others involved in land governance, promoting regular policy dialogue and evidence-based research and advocacy
- work with provincial and local governments to motivate them in supporting land and agrarian change on behalf of marginalized farmers and landless people, especially during the current process of administrative decentralization
- continue direct support to landless people, tenants, smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and their organisations to ensure access and ownership over land



**ILC Members involved:**

Abhayan Nepal, College of Development Studies (CDS), Consortium for Land Research and Policy Dialogue (COLARP), Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC), and National Land Rights Forum (NLRF)

**Other actors involved:**

Ministry of Land Management Cooperatives, and Poverty Alleviation (MOLMCPA), ActionAid Nepal, OXFAM, Care Nepal, IM Swedish Development Partner, and UN-HABITAT/GLTN, Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC), Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)

**Local Governments:**

Belaka Municipality, Udayapur, Kankai Municipality, Jhapa; Dhangadhimai Municipality, Siraha; Dangisharan Rural Municipality, Dang; Gauriganga Municipality, Kailali; Bhajani Municipality, Kailali; Bedkot Municipality, Kanchanpur; Gurvakot Municipality, Surkhet; Pancheshwor Rural Municipality, Baitadi.

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**For further information:**

 [www.lgwg.org](http://www.lgwg.org)

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