

THE INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

WORKING TOGETHER TO REALISE PEOPLE-CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE



**HOW CAN THE LAND COMMUNITY ENGAGE IN THE SDGS PROCESS
AND ENSURE THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND?**




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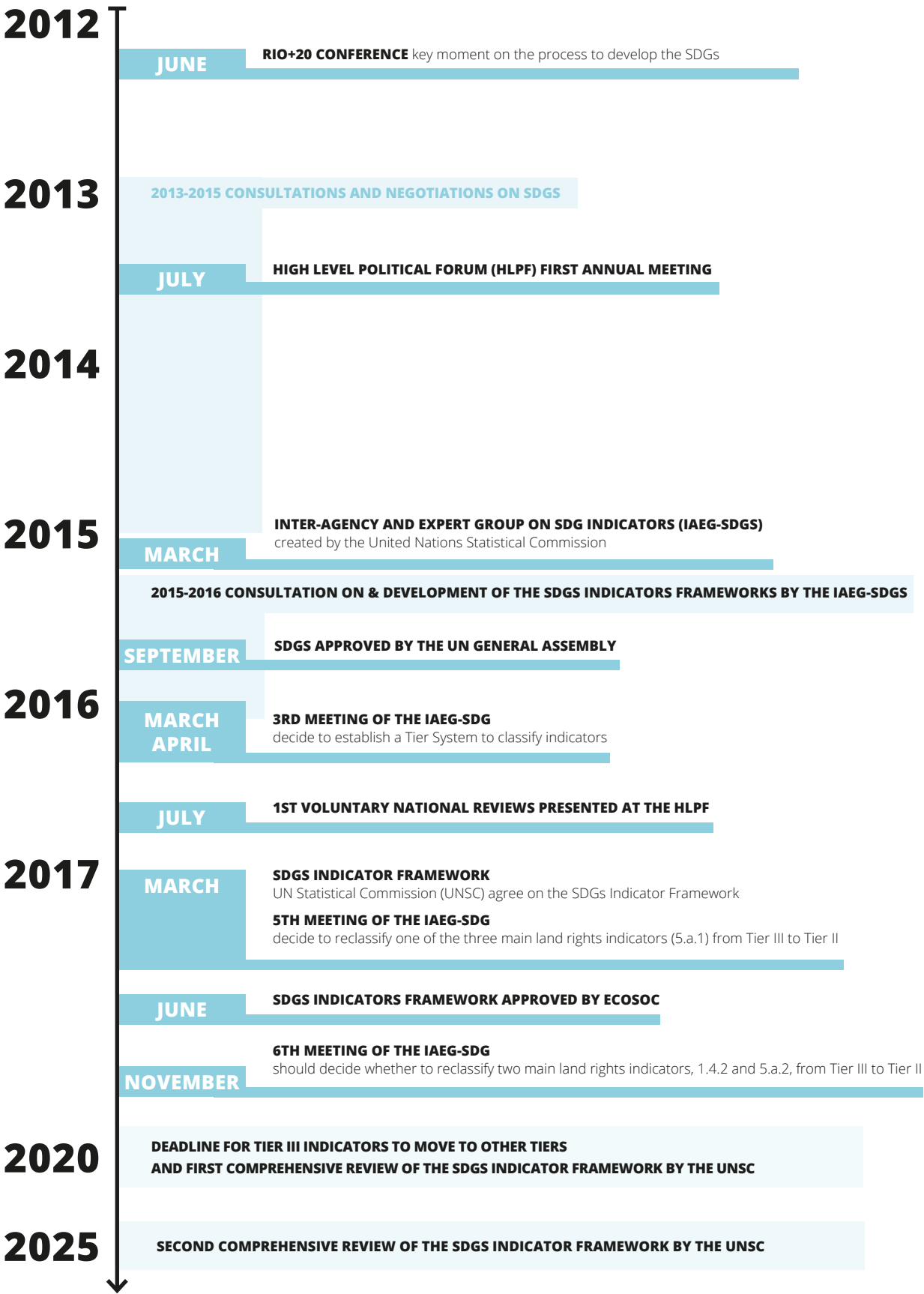
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SDGs TIMELINE



INTRODUCTION

There is often a big disconnect between organisations focused on grassroots level work, and the (global) *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* process. This is in part a consequence that SDG-related processes are new (and therefore national processes may be not yet well structured and participatory) but also because many grassroots organisations may not see a relationship between their agenda and the SDGs. This is also the case for many organisations working on land issues.

Many organisations and networks working on land have made a strong contribution to the SDG agenda. Thanks to their lobbying and advocacy efforts, land has been strongly included across the SDG agenda. Involvement in monitoring processes and the development of the indicators and engagement with national governments, National Statistical Offices and land agencies have been also impressive both in terms of efforts and results.

In the coming months and years, it is critical that the land community continues to engage and further strengthen its participation in SDG processes at all levels. More land organisations need to engage and more countries need to be targeted in our advocacy work. Not engaging not only means missed opportunities, e.g. in terms of policy influencing and fundraising, but also risking that at the national level, the SDGs could promote policies and programs with the potential of negatively impacting peoples' land rights and governance.

The SDGs represent an opportunity to make progress on the land agenda. To make it happen, more work at country level is needed to influence their implementation, a process that is inextricably linked to specific Targets and Indicators.

This paper aims to support ILC Members in better understanding the SDGs and their related-processes, opportunities and risks and ways to engage at various levels. It will show the strong linkages that exist between the ILC Commitments and the SDG agenda and how major progress on land rights and People-Centred Land Governance are necessary to achieve the SDGs as a whole. In addition, this paper will also show how the SDGs represent a complementary process that can contribute to the implementation of critical land instruments, including the CFS *Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGTs)*.



WHY THE SDGS ARE IMPORTANT FOR THE LAND AGENDA AND CANNOT BE IGNORED

WHAT ARE THE SDGS AND HOW WILL THEY WORK?

In 2015, the United Nation General Assembly adopted the very ambitious Agenda 2030. It is a set of **17 SDGs and 169 Targets** to be achieved by 2030, by both developed and developing countries covering the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental). As a package, the SDGs represent a major departure from the previous global goals: the Millennium Development Goals.

The SDGs represent a universal and indivisible agenda. Member States underlined several time that the whole agenda should be implemented and countries cannot pick and choose which Targets to implement and which to ignore.

The Goals represent the vision and ambition (e.g. eliminate hunger and poverty) but the detailed political agenda is represented by the Targets. Countries' commitments to achieve all Targets imply that progress on one Target cannot be achieved at the cost of progress on another. This should ensure that there will be progress on all three pillars of sustainable development.

A critical element underpinning the SDGs is the commitment to leave no one behind. This means that the SDGs should focus particularly on those most marginalised.

Given the complexity and the size of the 2030 Agenda it is critical for all actors to participate in measuring their progress. For this reason, a set of 230 indicators were developed to monitor progress on the SDGs. In 2017, the indicators were endorsed by ECOSOC after long consultation that focused on finding ways to measure all Targets with the smallest possible number of indicators.

SDGS AND LAND RIGHTS

The Agenda 2030 clearly recognised that without progress on land rights, the SDGs will not be achieved. For this reason, all UN Member States agreed to include land as an important element in a number of the Targets set in the Agenda.

There are a number of SDG Targets and Indicators relevant for the land agenda because of the critical importance land is to realising sustainable development and due to the cross-cutting impacts of land rights.

ILC Members focus on many different SDGs Targets and Indicators related to land and different commitments covered by the 10 ILC Commitments (see later in this paper for more information). Furthermore, different regions and countries may focus on different specific SDGs. Nevertheless, ILC needs to focus its global efforts on a relatively small number of Targets and Indicators to ensure it maximises its impact and that our efforts are not spread too thin. This does not mean that ILC should not engage on other Targets and Indicators when opportunities to achieve progresses on peoples' land rights come up.

In order to focus ILC's collective efforts, we can divide the SDGs Targets and Indicators into three categories:

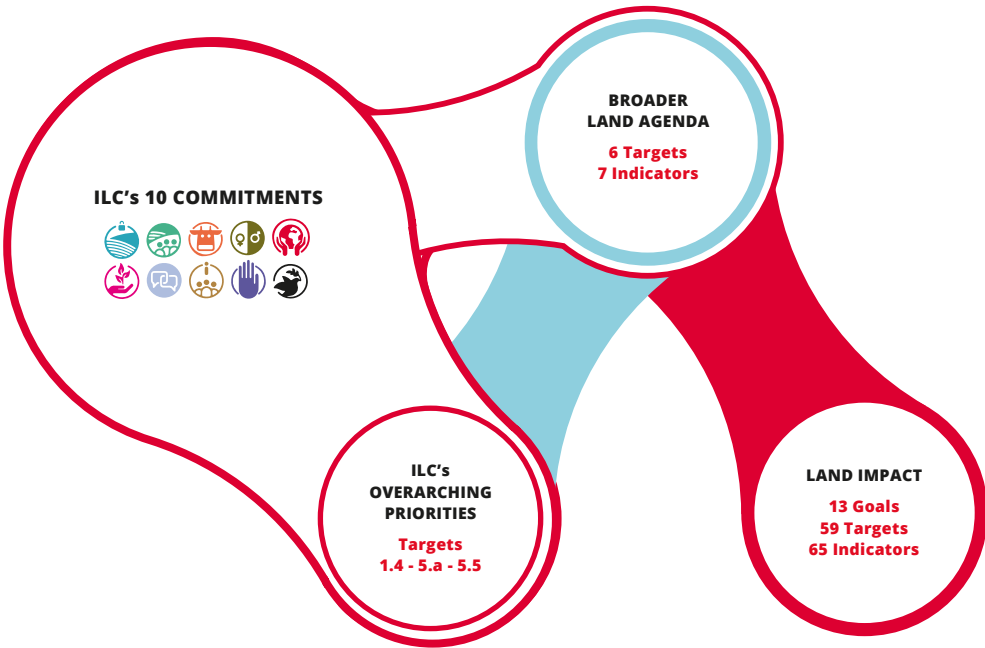
ILC'S OVERARCHING PRIORITIES

The most transformative Targets and Indicators that are closely related with land rights and are at the basis of ILC's mandate and its overarching priority. They are the **Targets 1.4 and 5.a** and the following key indicators:

- » **1.4.2** Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure.
- » **5.a.1 (a)** Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure.
- » **5.a.2** Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.

THE BROADER LAND AGENDA

This is represented by the larger list of Targets and Indicators that explicitly mention and t focuses on land rights and land use. Those include **6 Targets and 7 Indicators** (see **Annex 1**).



THE LAND IMPACT

This is the very large list of Targets and Indicators that rely on progress of ILC 10 Commitments and the realisation of People-Centred Land Governance. In fact, land will play a critical and direct role in achieving a much larger number of Indicators, Targets, and Goals. If we fail to secure and protect land rights for women and men, Indigenous Peoples, family farmers and pastoralists, it will be impossible to achieve or, in most cases, even make significant progress on **13 Goals¹; 59 Targets²; 65 Indicators³**.

This means that land is not only crucial to achieving the SDGs, but that focusing on land rights and governance can also:

- » Ensure that the Agenda 2030 will not be split into traditional silos, but will instead remain universal, integrated, and achievable in its totality;
- » Ensure that the SDGs social, economic and environmental dimensions, all of which are strongly interlinked with the land agenda, will remain well-integrated.

1 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.
2 1.1; 1.2; 1.4; 1.5; 1.b; 2.1; 2.2; 2.3; 2.4; 2.5; 2.a; 5.1; 5.5; 5.a; 5.c; 6.b; 8.1; 8.2; 8.3; 8.4; 8.5; 8.6; 8.7; 9.1; 9.3; 9.a; 10.1; 10.2; 10.3; 10.4; 11.1; 11.3; 11.4; 11.5; 11.7; 11.a; 11.b; 12.2; 12.3; 13.1; 13.2; 14.1; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.a; 15.b; 15.c; 16.1; 16.3; 16.5; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.14; 17.16; 17.18.
3 1.1.1; 1.2.1; 1.2.2; 1.4.2; 1.5.1; 1.5.2; 1.b.1; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.2.1; 2.2.2; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 2.4.1; 2.5.1; 2.5.2; 2.a.1; 2.a.2; 5.1.1; 5.5.2; 5.a.1; 5.a.2; 5.c.1; 6.b.1; 8.1.1; 8.2.1; 8.5.2; 8.6.1; 9.3.2; 9.4.1; 10.1.1; 10.2.1; 10.3.1; 11.1.1; 11.3.1; 11.3.2; 11.4.1; 11.5.1; 11.5.2; 1.7.1; 11.a.1; 12.2.1; 12.2.2; 12.3.1; 13.1.2; 13.2.1; 14.1.1; 15.1.1; 15.1.2; 15.2.1; 15.3.1; 15.4.1; 15.4.2; 16.1.1; 16.1.2; 16.1.3; 16.1.4; 16.3.1; 16.7.2; 16.10.1; 16.b.1; 17.14.1; 17.16.1; 17.17.1; 17.18.1.

HOW THE SDGs COMPLEMENT EXISTING LAND INSTRUMENTS

In recent years, a number of land-related instruments and initiatives have been developed at global, regional and national levels. It should be clear that the SDGs are not and should not replace the need to fully implement instruments such as the *Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure (VGGTs)*. In fact, the SDGs and existing legal instruments on land can and should complement one another.

The complementarity potential is clear when we look, for example, at the different characteristics of the VGGTs and SDGs. The VGGTs provide detailed guidance on land tenure governance, clear implementation mechanism and theory of change. Furthermore, they have high levels of legitimacy and buy in across a wide range of actors (from social movements to UN Member States) that engaged directly in the negotiation process. The SDGs complement them by providing high level commitment and engagement across a wide range of Ministries needed to make progress on People-Centred Land Governance, monitoring mechanisms and clear indicators to track progress.

The complementarity of the VGGTs and SDGs needs to be built and requires the commitment and effort of all actors active on land issues across both processes. If the land community fails to build strong synergies and complementarities, it is likely that our collective impact will be far lower. In the worst case scenario, both processes might undermine each other, notably at the country level, causing a significant waste of resources and efforts.

	STRENGTHS OF THE VGGTs	STRENGTHS OF THE SDGs
LEGITIMACY	Outcome of a very legitimate process strongly supported by all key actors working on food and agriculture issues.	Legitimate among a wide range of actors, different from those engaged on the VGGTs. Strong legitimacy across Ministries as well as at Head of State/Government level and across organizations focusing on issues not (necessarily) linked to food and agriculture.
SCOPE	Cover almost all aspects of tenure governance and land rights. Technical legal document with specific recommendations, complemented by FAO technical guidelines.	Cover major global issues. Focus on high level goals and more specific but top line targets.
TARGET	Target specialists and actors in charge of reforming tenure governance systems as well as promoting and defending land rights.	Target various actors but in particular decision-makers such as heads of state and of government and finance/planning ministers.
IMPLEMENTATION	Clear implementation mechanism and Theory of Change. Clearly underline that their implementation at country level should be done through multi-stakeholders forums. Theory of Change is based on the assumption that actors involved in the development of the VGGTs at the global level will come together at country level to promote their implementation. By joining their forces they should be able to overcome obstacles.	At country level, often implementation is led by an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism, placed under the authority of the head of government/state.
IMPACT	Had impact at global and national level but in some countries have not implemented them yet.	SDGs are going to be implemented in most countries and there is a high level of political will and commitment. Big opportunity to move forward the land agenda at country level because they involve relevant ministers and are often overseen by the head of state/government.
STRUCTURE	A session of the CFS Plenary every two years to discuss progress in the use of major CFS products: i.e. VGGTs may be discussed only every 8 years.	7 Indicators and 6 Targets explicitly mentioning land. SDGs have the Voluntary National Reviews and Goal specific reviews every year. Furthermore, various indicators are being developed, data is being collected and there are annual report by the UN Secretary General and others to assess progress.
MONITORING	Potential for detailed and qualitative monitoring/assessment on progress and on challenges at the CFS.	The SDGs process focuses on top-line assessment of progress and quantitative indicators targeting key governments' decision-makers.
SUPPORT	Strong support by a number of key bilateral donors.	UN system and basically all donors are going to align themselves with work towards the achievement on the SDGs.

LINKAGES BETWEEN THE SDGs AND ILC'S 10 COMMITMENTS IN REALISING PEOPLE-CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE

ILC's goal as a network is to realise land governance for and with people at the country level, responding to the needs and protecting the rights of those who live on and from the land. In order to achieve People-Centred Land Governance, ILC has focused on making progress on 10 critical commitments.

We already showed that **progress on the 10 ILC Commitments will contribute to at least 59 SDGs targets that relate to People-Centred Land Governance.**

Linkages with specific commitments are complex and may be either direct or indirect.

In this section, in order to support Members working on a specific commitment to focus and match their efforts on specific SDGs Targets, we will focus on a limited number of Targets that we see as transformational and directly linked with specific ILC Commitments. We hope that this will help members to better understand how their commitment work is linked with a specific Goal and Target.

From this preliminary analysis, it is clear that ILC commitment-based work is already providing a major contribution to achieving the Agenda 2030.

By focusing on the specific Targets above ILC contributions—through progress on its 10 Commitments—can play a transformative role in contributing to the realisation of the Agenda 2030 as a whole and to make progress on most of the established Goals.



NO POVERTY

Target 1.4: ownership and control over land

- 1** Secure tenure rights
- 3** Diverse tenure systems
- 5** Secure territorial rights for Indigenous Peoples
- 9** Effective actions against land grabbing



ZERO HUNGER

Target 2.3: small scale food producers

- 2** Strong small-scale farming systems
- 5** Secure territorial rights for Indigenous Peoples



GENDER EQUALITY

Target 5.a: women equal rights to economic resources, including land

- 4** Equal land rights for women

Target 5.5: women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership

- 7** Inclusive decision-making



CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Target 6.b: support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

- 7** Inclusive decision-making



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Target 10.2: empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all

- 3** Diverse tenure systems



LIFE ON LAND

Targets 15.2: stop deforestation - 15.3: restore degraded land and soils

- 6** Locally managed ecosystems



PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Target 16.7: responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making

- 7** Inclusive decision-making

Target 16.10: protect fundamental freedoms

- 8** Transparent and accessible information
- 10** Protection for land rights defenders



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Targets 17.18: increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data

- 8** Transparent and accessible information



SDGs OPPORTUNITIES AND SPACES: HOW CAN THEY BE USED AND HOW CAN CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGE?

Various SDGs processes and structures have been developed from the global to the national level. These processes are still at an early stage and most of them are still evolving. This opens up interesting opportunities to influence their evolution but can also causes additional difficulties, particularly linked with the different approaches across countries. Furthermore, some processes require further improvement in order to deliver on their mandates.

THE IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

In order to be implemented, it is critical that the high level political commitment expressed during the SDGs endorsement in 2015 translates into coordinated action at the country level. Adequate coordination and consultation mechanisms, fully involving civil society, should be put into place.

There are no set of criteria or agreed mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs. There is therefore a variety of approaches that will be used at the country level to coordinate the implementation of the SDGs. To move forward, several countries have already put in place inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, normally led by the office of the Head of State or of Government or by a specific Ministry.

Engaging in those national mechanisms and in various fora working on the SDGs implementation at national level can offer very significant opportunities to promote progress on the land agenda. In fact, the SDGs processes involve key Ministries that have an influence on land issues and are responsible for achieving all SDGs targets, including those focusing on land. Furthermore, in many countries SDG related processes create new spaces for civil society to engage and influence governments.

The UN and other multilateral agencies, as well as bilateral donors and other development partners are also prioritising the achievement of the SDGs in their country level work. There is also a clear expectation that all major regional and international conferences will link their work to the SDGs as the overarching global framework. This can open up opportunities to engage with institutions and at conferences on land-related issues, using linkages between land and the SDGs Targets as an entry point.

REPORTING MECHANISM: VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

The Agenda 2030 comes with two main monitoring mechanisms: Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and SDG Indicators (see hereafter).

Every year in July, at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), countries can volunteer to present their VNRs, which should be based on reports developed at the country level. Countries should inform the UN of their intention to deliver VNRs well in advance (more or less a year before).

The following countries have already delivered their VNRs:

- » In 2016: China, Colombia, Egypt, Estonia, Finland. France, Georgia, Germany, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela.
- » In 2017: Afghanistan, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Maldives, Monaco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.

The following countries have already announced that they plan to deliver their VNRs in 2018: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Dominican Republic, Equator, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Jamaica, Kiribati, Laos, Latvia, Mali, Malta, Niger, Paraguay, Poland, Republic of Congo, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Switzerland, Uruguay, Vietnam. There may be other that will be added in the next months. Updated information can be found on the [HLPF website](#).

The VNRs vary greatly amongst the countries. In fact, there is no agreed process and format, even though the UN came up with [some guidance](#), which remains voluntary.

The VNRs are still evolving and their quality -in stakeholders participation and in their development-remains uneven. In some countries a government led multi-stakeholder process has been put in place to develop their VNRs. In other countries, apparently, the government simply tasked the UN system with developing the VNRs. while in others the process was done without adequate consultation (according to some actors) or the outcome of the consultations were not accurately presented in the VNR session.

There is space to ensure that every country will be able to deliver several VNRs between 2015 and 2030. For example, Switzerland presented its VNR in 2016 and is expected to deliver another in 2018.

When developed in a participatory way, VNRs can be an opportunity to engage with main national actors to develop a joint assessment of the land rights situation, define the key challenges and discuss what land policies reforms are needed.

The presentation of the VNRs at the HLPF can be used to expose issues at the global level, notably by delivering questions in Plenary. Even if time is limited, there are opportunities for Major Groups (see below for more information) to ask questions to Member States on their VNRs. Options to develop parallel reporting or use side events to propose a civil society view of a specific country (or issue) situation is also to be explored in this context.

MEASURING PROGRESS: THE SDG INDICATORS

Based on several consultations, a list of 230 Indicators were developed to track progress on the SDGs. The indicators framework was formally adopted on June 6, 2017 by ECOSOC in New York. Attention of the main actors engaged is now entirely focused on how (and which) indicators should be implemented.

The Indicators' implementation is critical because any Target that is not measured will not be included in UN progress reports and, as such, will run the risk of falling off of global, regional and national agendas.

At the time, it was critical that the land community secured all land rights indicators (including 1.4.2; 5.a.1 and 5.a.2). However, the mere endorsement of these land Indicators is not sufficient to secure their implementation. In fact, a global process by which the SDG indicators framework will be developed and implemented has already been put into place. This process, described below, will be critical in determining whether global land indicators will be implemented and what methodology they should follow. So far, neither 1.4.2 nor 5.a.2 are in the category going toward the full implementation. The Tier classification of other land-related targets and indicators can be found on [Landportal](#).

The process to determine the status of indicators is led by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), which has a mandate to develop and implement the global SDG indicator framework. It is composed of representatives of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the following countries, representing their respective sub-regions:

- » Eastern Africa: Tanzania, Uganda
- » Middle and Southern Africa: Botswana, Cameroon
- » Western Africa: Cabo Verde, Senegal
- » Northern Africa: Algeria
- » Western Asia: Armenia, Bahrain, Egypt

- » Central, Eastern, Southern, and South-Eastern Asia: China, India, Kyrgyzstan, The Philippines
- » Oceania: Fiji, Samoa
- » The Caribbean: Cuba, Jamaica
- » Central and South America: Brazil (current Chair), Colombia, Mexico
- » Eastern Europe: Russian Federation
- » North America and Northern, Southern and Western Europe: Canada, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden

The IAEG decided to organise indicators into three different Tiers based on their level of implementation:

- » **Tier I:** Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant. Those indicators should be fully implemented by all countries.
- » **Tier II:** Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries. Those indicators should move toward their full implementation.
- » **Tier III:** No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested. Those indicators require work to develop and pilot methodologies and are not going to be implemented.

Only Tier 1 indicators will be fully implemented. The risk is that indicators that remain in Tier III will never be implemented and may actually be dropped de facto from the monitoring of SDGs in the coming years. If not adequately monitored, the attention on the related Targets in term of implementation will also dramatically decrease.

For each indicator, one or more agencies (the so-called “Custodians”) have been appointed by the IAEG-SDG to lead the development of the indicators, their methodology, pilot their tests and initial implementations, and move them forward towards full implementation.

In order to be re-classified from one Tier to another, the IAEG-SDG established a number of criteria:

- » **Tier III—> Tier II:**
 - » NSOs should be involved into methodology development;
 - » Methodology has become an international standard;
 - » Methodology has been approved by a relevant governing body;
 - » Methodology is the result of pilot studies that are regionally representatives;
- » **Tier II—> Tier I:** Data is regularly produced by countries for at least 50 percent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.

Respecting there criteria is seen as critical to guaranteeing the statistical and scientific integrity of the SDGs indicators framework. However, it should be underlined that the decision to re-classify and implement indicators is also political. As such, political will and commitment to a specific target by the majority of countries represented in the IAEG-SDG is critical.

Currently, only one of the three key indicators focusing on land rights (5.a.1) is under Tier II, based on a decision at the last IAEG-SDG meeting in March 2017. The other two critical land rights indicators (1.4.2 and 5.a.2) are **currently** under Tier III. Custodian organisations are working diligently to fine tune methodologies and pilot these two indicators and should present relevant documentation to secure their re-classification to Tier II at the next IAEG-SDG meeting (November 11-14 in Manama, Bahrain). Custodians for indicator 1.4.2 are UN-Habitat and the World Bank while for indicator 5.a.2: FAO, UN-Habitat and the World Bank. ILC Secretariat contributed to the development of the indicators by participating in various Expert Group Meetings as well as taking part in a group of friends of the Custodians.

In order to move toward full implementation of these indicators, it is critical to engage with each NSOs participating in the IAEG-SDG and, more broadly, with all NSOs to ensure the implementation of the land indicators at the national level.

SHARING LESSONS LEARNED AND MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY: THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) meets every year in July at the UN Headquarter in New York for one week and a half. In 2017, it brought together almost 2500 delegates and 77 ministers, cabinet secretaries and deputy ministers.

It is not (yet) a media or campaigning opportunity but, taking advantage of the large presence of a broad range of stakeholders, it can be seen as an important moment for lobbying and advocacy.

It is composed by the following key elements:

- » **A Ministerial Declaration** that is critical to ensure land issues remain high in the international, regional and national agendas. Normally, the Declaration is almost entirely agreed upon before the HLPF starts. It is negotiated by diplomats in New York, based on instructions from capitals.
- » **Presentation of the UN Secretary General progress report** in which only Targets with existing data are presented.
- » **The Thematic Reviews.** Every year the HLPF select 5-6 goals to be reviewed. Every goal is discussed in a two hour plenary session. This makes the review very short and quite general. In 2018, the HLPF will review Goals 5 (water); 7 (energy), 11 (human settlement); 12 (sustainable consumption and production) and 15 (life on land). Goals 5, 11, 12 and 15 are relevant to ILC's Commitments and agenda. In 2019, the HLPF will focus on Goals 4 (education), 8 (economic growth), (10 Inequality), 13 (climate change) and 16 (peace and justice). For the ILC, Goals 8, 10, 13 and 16 are very relevant. As land is an issue that cross-cuts the SDGs agenda, the thematic reviews of both 2018 and 2019 offer opportunities to engage.
- » The **Voluntary National Reviews** (see above).
- » **Side Events** are a critical element of the HLPF. In 2017, 147 side events took place either at the UN Building or another venue in New York. They represent a critical opportunity to deepen dialogue on specific issues or to give them more visibility and increase engagement with the SDGs community.
- » **A number of special sessions focusing on specific issues** such as the science/policy interface that may provide additional opportunities to raise specific points.
- » **A High Level Segment** in the last days of the HLPF includes the debate on VNRs as well as special thematic dialogues.

Additional Background on the HLPF and a report from the 2017 HLPF can be found [here](#).

Civil society organisations and other stakeholders participate in the HLPF through the Major Groups mechanisms. There are the following 'Major Groups': Women; Children and Youth; Indigenous Peoples; Non-Governmental Organizations; Local Authorities; Workers and Trade Unions; Business and Industry; Scientific and Technological Community; Farmers. In addition, there is a group of "Other Stakeholder" that could represent multi-stakeholder platforms or groups.

A general briefing organised by all Major Groups jointly takes place every morning at the HLPF, though a lot of work is done in smaller groups (e.g. tasked to finalise specific questions on the VNRs presentations) or within the Major Groups. Every Major Groups is organised and coordinated in different ways. Each Major Group decides their spokespersons although some of them are already established well in advance through calls for interest. Competition to take the floor is quite high because of the level of attendance and interest on the HLPF and the short sessions.



WHAT THE ILC AND ITS MEMBERS DID IN 2017 AND WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT

The SDG Agenda will be the overarching global framework for the next many years. We need to maintain the Agenda on track to contribute to realise ILC's vision of People-Centred Land Governance. This will require from the land community more and better coordinated work at global and national levels.

At the national level, it is critical that ILC's National Engagement Strategies (NES) and ILC Members scale up their engagement with national authorities and institutions. Country level lobbying and advocacy work is critical because without it, progress made in the last years on land within the SDGs may be lost.

ILC will be able to support Members at country level through Commitment Based Initiatives and National Engagement Strategies. In term of supporting global, regional and multi-country work of ILC Members, activities related to the SDGs could be supported by integrating them into relevant Commitment Based Initiatives.

In this section we will underline some of the key elements and processes within the SDG Agenda which we should focus. A lot of work has already been done in 2017 and we tried to reflect it here based on our best knowledge. We are certain that many other activities related to the SDGs were led by ILC Members across the world. Based on the experience of previous work on SDGs and the current stage of different processes, we will present what we believe we need to do next. A few actions will need to be taken urgently to influence the implementation of the SDGs indicators, others will require more thinking and planning within ILC.

Regional Conferences and the 2018 Global Land Forum will be critical moments for ILC Members to come together and strategise on how collectively we can move the SDG agenda forward at all levels.

SDG INDICATOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

In 2017, many ILC Members engaged at various levels to move the three main land rights indicators towards their full implementation. In addition to advocacy and lobby work, this included participation in a series of Expert Group Meetings (EGMs), and engagement as or support to Custodian agencies to develop a sound methodology for the indicators.

One of the outcomes of the EGM on Women's Land Rights that took place in New York in July 2017, was to set up a Core Group to move forward the advocacy agenda to influence the re-classification of the indicators 1.4.2. and 5.a.2 from Tier III to Tier II. This Group is composed by Huairou Commission, Landesa, Oxfam, GLII and the ILC Secretariat.

What need to be done urgently?

In the short term, the meeting of the IAEG-SDG (November 11-4) should agree to re-classify indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.2 from Tier III to Tier II. To make it happen, there is an urgent need to lobby the IAEG Members at country level to ensure they will support the re-classification.

We should target the NSOs of all IAEG Member countries. However, given the importance of the decision and its political dimension, ensuring that all IAEG members will support the re-classification of the two land indicators will also require the support of the Ministries in charge of statistics and/or the Ministries or Inter-Ministerial bodies in charge of the SDGs.

In order to support organisations that will lobby national institutions on the re-classification of SDG indicators, the global Core Group will develop joint messages that can be used and adapted to engage with key actors at country level. They will be circulated across the ILC Membership.

The Core Group will also work to coordinate lobbying efforts, notably to ensure that collectively we will engage with all IAEG Members. Coordination is also required to ensure that we will cover all the main global events and opportunities to move forward our joint advocacy agenda.

The Core Group aims only to feed the discussion and decisions of the broader group of ILC Members and partners working on the SDGs by providing draft messages and strategies. If you want to be included in the broader group that will work to influence the re-classification of the SDG indicators on land please contact the ILC Global Secretariat.

What needs to be done in the longer term?

In the coming months, there is a need to ensure that a growing number of NSOs implement all the land indicators. This will enable us to ensure that the indicators will reach Tier I and more importantly, will be fully implemented globally. This requires engagement with NSOs and other critical actors at country level together with strong support from development partners to ensure that adequate support for implementation.

In the longer term official indicators should also be complemented by other indicators and processes to track progress and better understand root causes of land rights and governance situations at country level. This is needed to better understand specific national and local realities and issues.

The ILC will contribute to further deepening its understanding on land governance and tenure rights at the country level, notably through the development of the ILC Global Dashboard.

After the IAEG meeting in November, ILC needs to strategise on how we move forward, with the Core Group playing a role in facilitating the discussion.

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

Focus on the various implementation mechanisms within national governments as well as international agencies will be needed. Indicators and monitoring mechanisms are critical but we should not forget that, in order to be monitored, SDGs will need to be implemented first.

Every country will set up different implementation mechanisms. National civil society organisations should assess how to engage in those mechanisms and see how to use them in moving forward the land agenda. If existing mechanisms are not relevant, existing land platforms, such as National Engagement Strategies, may be used.

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS (VNR)S

Various ILC Members participated at various stages in the development and presentation of the VNRs.

NES and other ILC Members at the national level should assess whether engaging in the development of the national VNRs planned for 2018 (and beyond) is worth it from an advocacy perspective. Collectively, we need to ensure that land is well included in several VNRs to maintain it high in the HLPF and global agendas.

Engagement can range from participating in national consultations, preparing questions for the HLPF Plenary, organising side events or even developing parallel reporting.

Organizations at the global level can support those engaging in VNRs at country level by connecting them with the HLPF and ensuring they have access to the experience and lesson learned from others that participated to last years' VNRs.

HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF)

Participation and engagement in the HLPF is needed to ensure that land remain high in the SDG debate. In 2017, several ILC Members came together to influence the HLPF Ministerial Declaration and meeting. The outcome was positive with land tenure clearly mentioned in the Ministerial Declaration and land issues being visible at the HLPF.

At the 2018 HLPF, we should build on this experience and strengthen our impact. By bringing together all interested ILC Members well in advance we will have a bigger impact on the HLPF and on its Ministerial Declaration.

Influencing the Ministerial Declaration and, more broadly, the HLPF will also require some targeted engagement at country level in key moments. Organisations following the 2018 HLPF may provide joint messages and positions on the Ministerial Declaration that NES and ILC Members working at country level could use.

If you are interested to join the group of ILC Members that will engage in the 2018 HLPF please contact the ILC Global Secretariat.

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Given the importance of the SDG framework over the next several years, we should better communicate within the land community how our work is contributing to specific SDG Targets and the Agenda 2030 as a whole.

The SDGs agenda also offer the opportunity to engage with and reach out to constituencies that are not yet engaging on land issues. This opportunity should be part of our communication efforts to reach out non land specialists with easy to understand and impactful, messages on land rights.

Finally, land related SDGs should be well integrated into the agendas of the main international agencies and donors. This would require engagement in relevant processes to mainstream SDGs into various organisations.

ANNEX 1

LAND RELATED TARGETS AND INDICATORS

- 1.4** By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.
 - 1.4.2** Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure.
- 2.3** By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.
- 2.4** By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
- 5.a** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
 - 5.a.1(a)** Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure.
 - 5.a.2** Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.

11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate.


11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically.

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area.

15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area.

NOTES

A photograph of an elderly man with grey hair, wearing a plaid shirt and a white dhoti, harvesting green herbs in a field. He is wearing a pink and white striped scarf. The background shows a clear blue sky and some trees.

“THE WORLD’S
INDIGENOUS
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**UP TO 2.5 BILLION
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LAND THAT IS
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INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION We are a global alliance of 200+ civil society and intergovernmental organisations working together to put people at the centre of land governance, through 10 joint commitments to action.