



36

Land Tenure and International Investment in Agriculture

A perspective on *Large-scale foreign investments on land and their alternatives*

Madiodio Niasse, ILC Secretariat

What is ILC?

- Established in mid-1990s as: **Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty**, which became ILC in 2003
- A global alliance to *promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for the poor*;
- About **80 member organisations**, including **IGOs** and **CSOs** (farmers' organisations, research institutes, NGOs and CBOs);
- The phenomenon of **large-scale land transactions** at the heart of the Coalition's mandate

Understanding the broader context of current LSLA

Characteristics of historical eras (Raskin et al. 2002)

	Stone Age	Early civilisation	Modern Era	Planetary phase
	$10^5 \rightarrow$	$10^4 \rightarrow$	$10^3 \rightarrow$	$10^2 \rightarrow$
Organisation	Tribe/village	City-State; Kingdom	Nation-State	Global governance
Economy	Hunting-gathering	Settled agriculture	Industrial system	Globalisation
Communisation	language	writing	Printing	internet

Pleistocene (*Ice Age*)

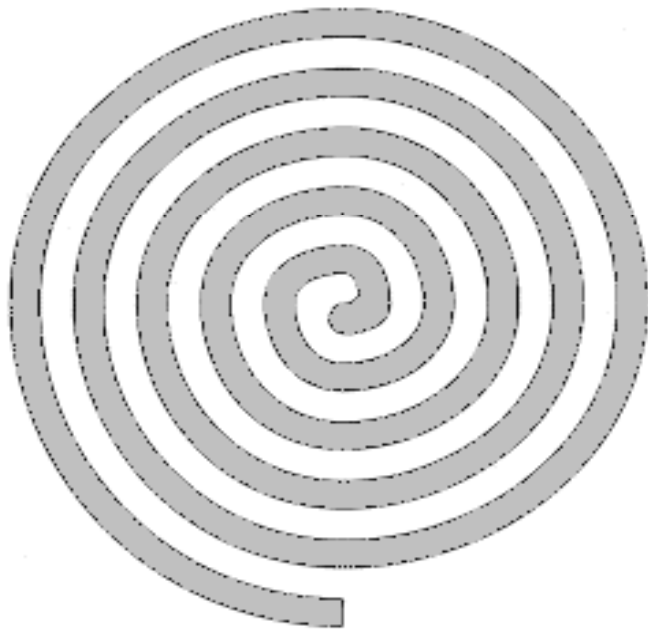
Holocence

Anthropocene*

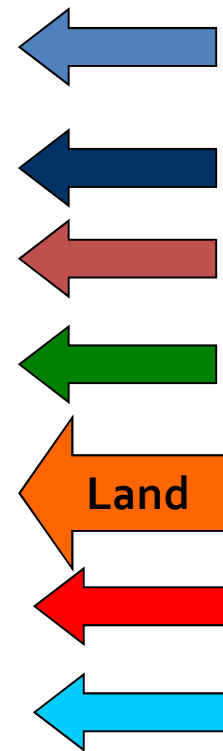
* Human activity altering the planet on a scale comparable to major geological events (P. Crutzen)

- **Acceleration** (each stage shortened by a factor of 10 compared to the previous)
- **Globalisation** of the economy → **increased throughputs of natural resources**
- **Weakening of nation-state**
- Emergence of **global governance actors and mechanisms**

Understanding the broader context of current LSLA



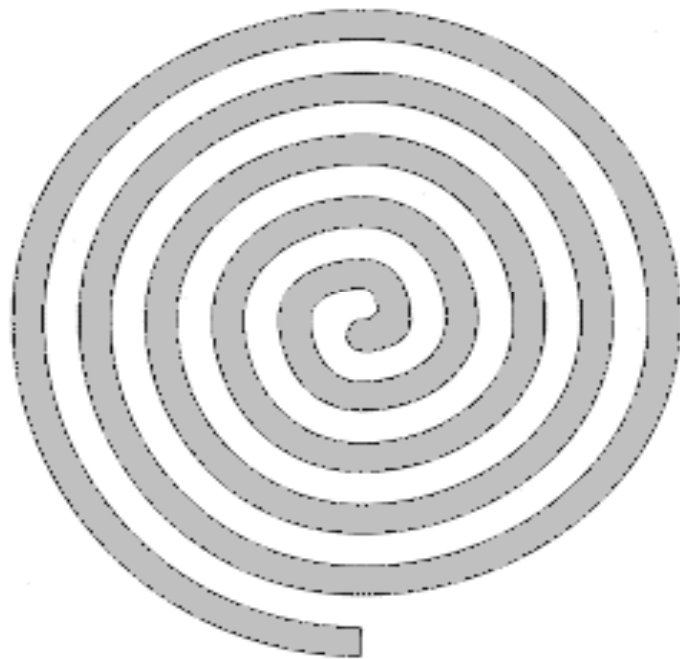
**The global
market**



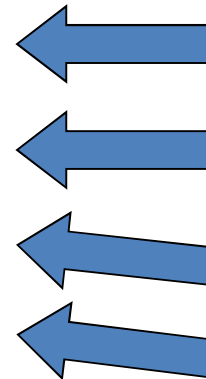
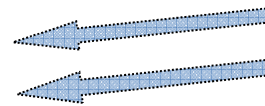
**The Earth's
natural resources**



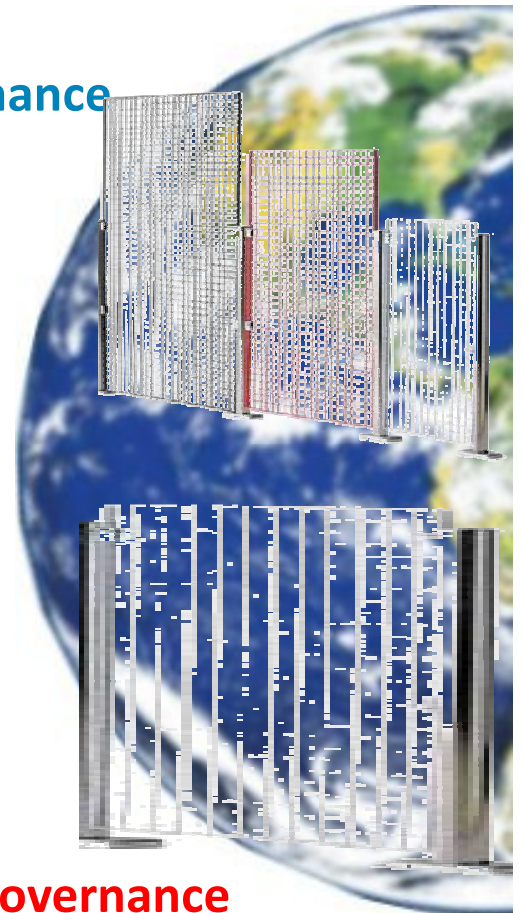
Understanding the broader context of current LSLA



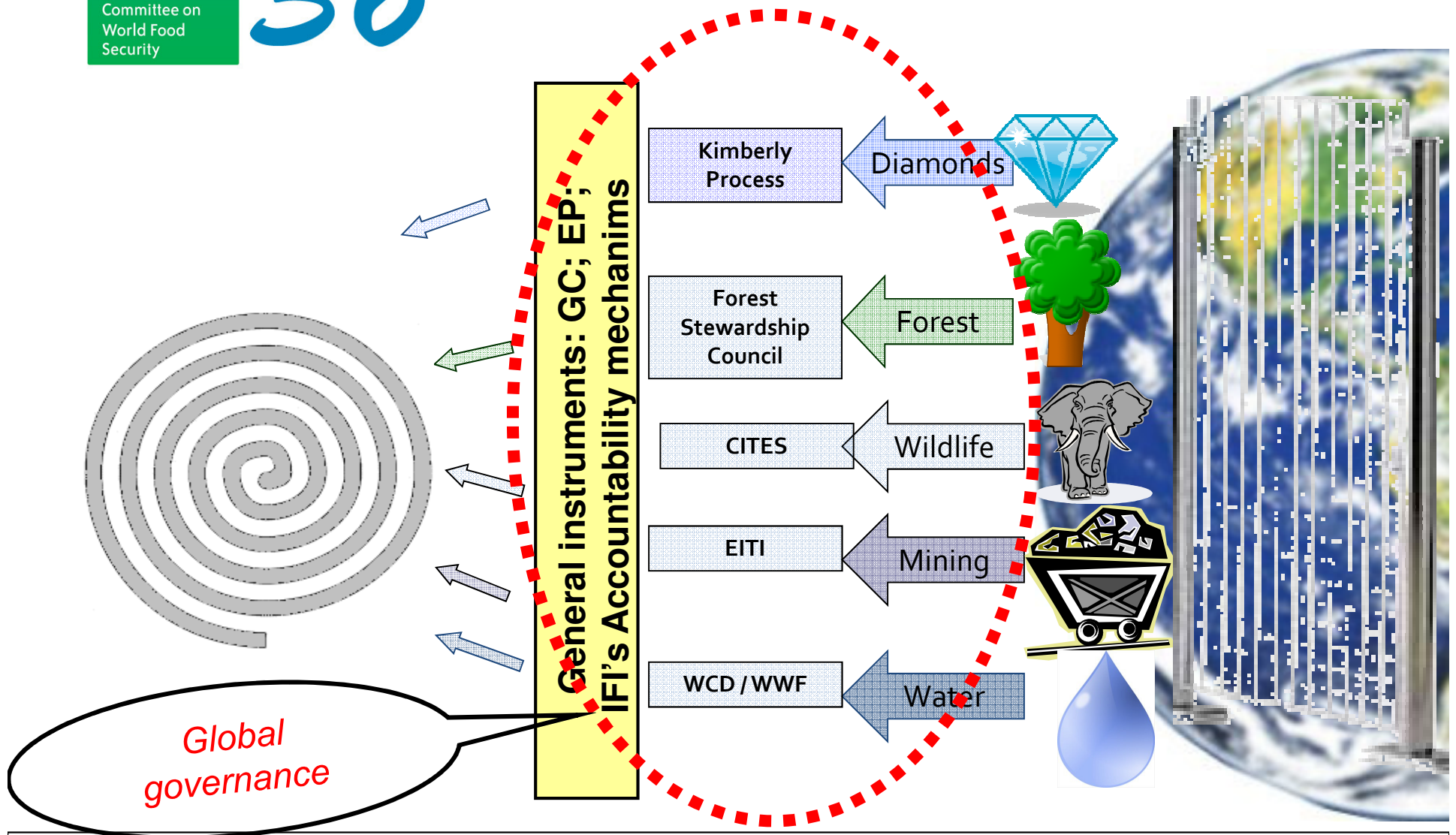
Strong Governance



Weak Governance



Lesson 1. Improve governance in countries where the resources are located



Lesson 2. CSR and global citizen engagement make sense to compensate weak governance at national level

Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Land & NR

+

- Does address need to improve governance at national level
- Process used is highly participatory
- Has *potential* for locally-centred sustainable response

-

- **Scope** (land and NR) might be too **broad**
- Neglect of key **global actors**
- Too optimistic on the “demand” for better land governance
- **Takes time**

ILC
contribution
VG



- Participation in VG consultation processes
- Planned: VG as part of Dialogue on LSLA
- Planned: Promoting the VGs once approved

Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments



Addresses need to **improve the global governance**

- Recognises the **need for investment in agriculture** in many countries in the South
- Effort to **link the principles with evidence** gathered
- Effort to **reconcile competing interests** (investors, host gov. priorities; protection of community rights)



- **Participation sub-optimal**
- Some of **key assumptions contested**: “availability of farmlands”;
- **Key Global actors not fully on board**: CSOs in particular
- Lack of clarity on **implementation/enforcement modalities**

ILC contribution



- Participation Consult. on WB study
- Evidence gathering
- Call for an open dialogue

ILC contribution: Evidence gathering



- ILC **35 studies**
- Global **synthesis**

- **FAO/IFAD/IIED**: 5 countries in Africa (2009)
- **World Bank**: 20+ countries globally (2010)
- **GTZ**: four countries in Asia and Africa (2010)
- **FIAN**: 2 countries /Africa (2010)
- **SNV**: 5 countries West Africa (2009) + 6 countries (2010)
- **Club du Sahel with ILC**: West Africa region (2010)
- **ROPPIA/IDRC**: 5 countries in West Africa
- **IFAD/FAO/IIED**: Business models



36

ILC response: Widening the Dialogue

Rationale:

- **Major interest groups** (including those who use and/or own the land, govs in the receiving countries, public and private investors) *left out from the search for responses*
- ➔ Need for meaningful open debates among the proponents of the various responses, and among all relevant parties

Expected outcome

- ➔ Positions & responses by the various parties are more informed by available evidence & by the alternatives perspectives



36

ILC response: Widening the Dialogue

Format of the Dialogue : a two-stage process

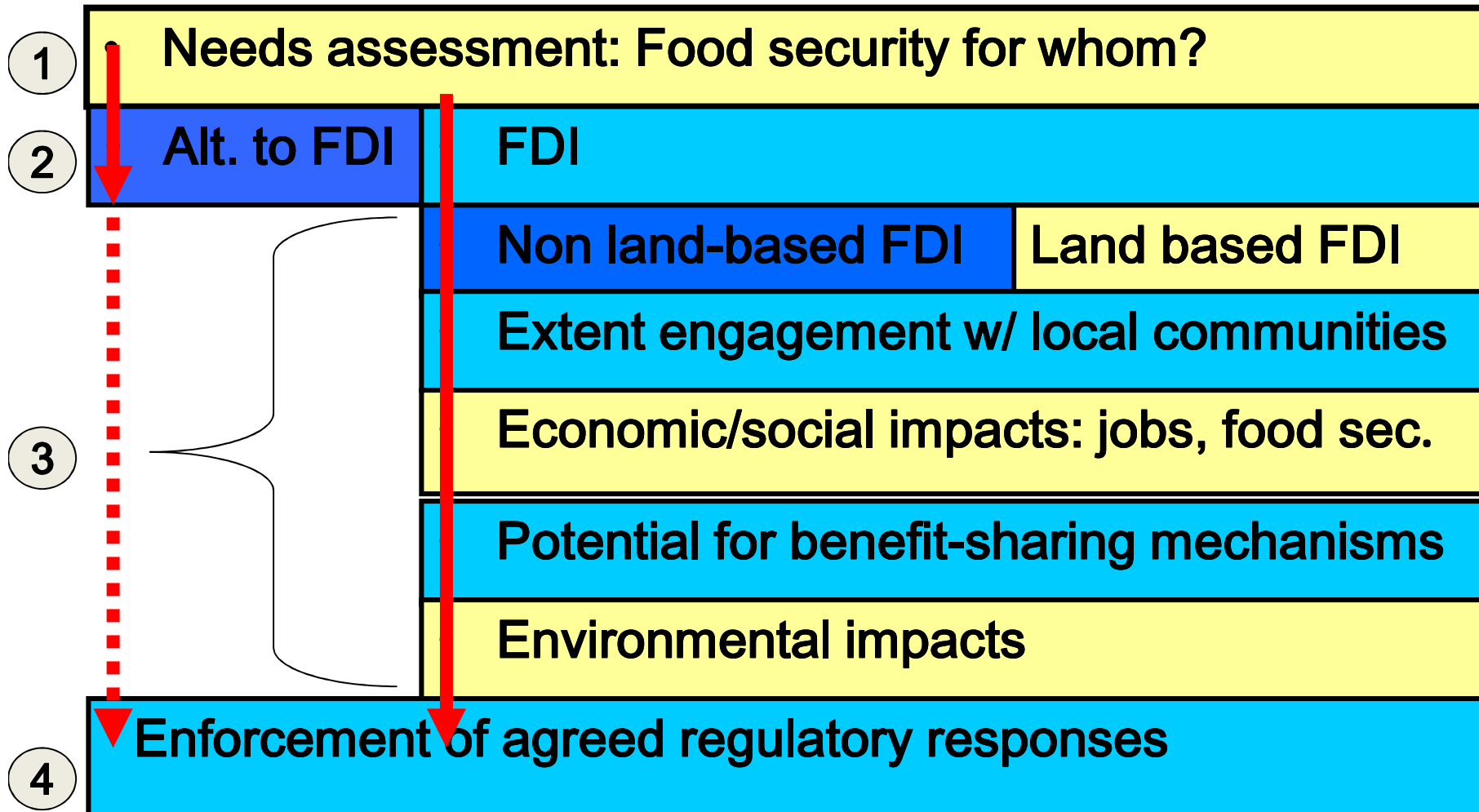
Phases of the Dialogue:

1. **CSO-FO Phase** (aim of levelling the playing field)
2. **Open Dialogue Phase**
 - On the *evidence*
 - On the *responses* being proposed (principles and alternatives to principles)

Dialogue modalities:

- Regional consultations
- Global consultations (meetings and electronic consultations)
- Linkages with other global and regional processes

Possible issues for Dialogue



Conclusion: Way forward?

- Land, territory has always been subject to a **logic of confrontation** rather than **cooperation**
- The **antagonistic positions** and the **polarised nature of the debates** on land/land reform been **amplified** (not eased) by LSLAs
 - On the evidence, each party collected its own to make its case ;
 - On the responses: multiple responses on the table, ranging from radical opposition to any form of LSLA (***land grabbing***) to unconditional support to it (***investments***);
 - Each camp deepening its positions in a potentially endless “battle of trenches” where ***the only real loser is the poor, the interest of whom each camp pretends to stand for*** .

Conclusion: two possible directions

1. Intensified “Trench warfare”



<http://www.gwpda.org/photos/coppermine/thumbnails.php?album=13&page=2>

2. Toward concerted responses

- You need **courage/commitment** to be in the trenches
- You need the same to meet/talk to the other camp
- **ILC bets on the latter**, which is its *raison d'être*



Thank you !

For more information on ILC: www.landcoalition.org