

Statement by the ILC Director – CFS 54 Plenary: Strengthening Coordination and Collaborative Action

Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, and colleagues,

The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance of more than 320 members across 86 countries. For over 30 years, we have worked to advance people centred land governance, bringing together a coalition of intergovernmental organizations, academia and civil society including organizations representing smallholders and family farmers, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, women and youth.

We know – because the evidence tells us -- that people who have secure and equitable access to the land they live and work on are better able to produce healthy and nutritious food, invest in sustainable livelihoods, protect natural resources, and withstand crises. Secure land tenure and equitable land governance unlocks opportunity.

In this regard, we very much welcome the recognition in the draft conclusions of the links between the status of food security and tenure insecurity, land inequality, discrimination against women and barriers faced by young people in accessing land.

We are particularly pleased to acknowledge the FAO report on the *Status of Land Tenure and Governance*, which FAO, CIRAD and ILC launched at ICARRD+20 last year. As highlighted in the report, persistent tenure insecurity including the fear of losing one's land remains a major obstacle to achieving food security and nutrition, and stalls the progress we all want to see.

We also welcome the emphasis placed on promoting the uptake of the **Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure**. Through our 35 National Land Coalitions, ILC continues to work with members and partners to advance the implementation of the VGGTs, translating global commitments into national dialogue, policy reform and results on the ground.

Looking ahead, we are encouraged by and look forward to contribute to the planned **2027 CFS High-Level Forum on advancing equitable land governance for food security and nutrition**. Let's use this forum to give new momentum to recognizing how important land governance is to successfully transforming food systems — how land rights are part of the solution -- because, frankly, land governance is still too often overlooked in analysis of those very systems, in reports, policy and financing.

Thank you.