

The grabbing and concentration of land and natural resources is worsening, with serious impacts on local communities, the climate, biodiversity, water, soils, and access to healthy food on a global scale.

The Struggles for Land and Natural Resources Forum (FLT) welcomes the renewed attention to land issues on the international agenda, driven by the proposal for a new International Conference on Agrarian Reform (ICARRD) initiated by La Via Campesina, Colombia, and Brazil. The FLT aims to actively contribute to the preparation of this Conference by mobilizing its members and allies. The shared goal is to strengthen struggles at various levels to create a strong balance of power that ensures the adoption and implementation of ambitious agrarian and land reforms—not just superficial government declarations.

The FLT believes that peasant and family farming, as opposed to corporate-led agriculture and agribusiness that concentrates wealth and devastates the environment and natural resources, must take center stage at this intergovernmental Conference. The objective should be to provide concrete solutions to land access challenges and to implement mechanisms ensuring these are effectively enforced. As highlighted during the last Global Forum on Access to Land (FMAT2016), history—such as the outcomes of ICARRD 2006 and the Voluntary Guidelines for the Governance of Tenure (VGGTs, 2012)—shows that intergovernmental meetings often fail to lead to meaningful change if they stop at mere statements. A powerful push from peasant organizations and civil society is crucial this time to ensure that states adopt the necessary measures to halt current destructive trends.

The issue of land must inspire mobilization beyond its traditional stakeholders. It's essential to actively involve citizens, consumers, environmental movements, and researchers in the struggles of peasant, pastoralist, forestry, and fishing communities, making them central to the discussions. Broadening alliances is now more critical than ever to build common solutions and foster collaboration.

In this context, the FLT serves as a tool for encouraging dialogue and building alliances among members of different networks. It will adopt an inclusive governance model that ensures shared decision-making power and genuine collaboration among all organized collectives that see land as a shared resource. These resources play vital roles for humanity, including biomass production, carbon storage, biodiversity habitats, water flow regulation, and supporting peasant agroecology and other communal uses within a gender-equal framework.

Practically, following the thematic meetings and the *Struggles for Land Podcast* developed over the past three years, the FLT proposes organizing discussion sessions in 2025-2026. These sessions will be structured around key priorities defined by the founding FLT member organizations during the Steering Committee in Bagnolet in April 2023:

- Peasant agroecology and other community uses are the only sustainable ways to tackle current challenges.
- Gender equality is a cornerstone of peasant agroecology.
- Land is a shared resource; it is not for sale.
- Land rights are human rights.
- Guaranteeing land rights helps build peace.

The FLT plans to monitor these themes across various regions and within its member organizations. Activities will include preparatory meetings (both online and in-person, with professional interpretation support), public discussions, and publishing shared position papers to develop collective, long-lasting demands to bring to ICARRD and beyond.

