Our goal is to secure all Indigenous and community land rights everywhere.

We know it is a challenging journey. The first target is to double by 2020 the global area of land legally recognized as owned or controlled by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Securing these rights is at the heart of building a just and equitable world. From health to education, participation to peace, growth to cultural diversity, Indigenous Peoples and local communities’ land rights are fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals to which our nations’ leaders have committed.

Life on Earth as we know it depends on the recognition of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as custodians of our planet. We are grateful to them for their millennial contribution.

To those governments, private sector actors, national and international institutions, and civil society organisations that support Indigenous Peoples and local communities’ land rights, we commend your efforts and hope you will join us in this journey.

Why do we need a global call to action?

- To eradicate poverty and hunger. Up to 2.5 billion people, including 370 million Indigenous people, depend on lands and natural resources that are held, used or managed collectively. Their rights to those resources are under threat, with only an estimated 1/5 of these lands formally recognized as owned by them, with the rest being controlled by more powerful actors. This leaves 1/3 of the world’s population vulnerable. More broadly, societies that have insecure land rights have fewer opportunities to enjoy prosperity and achieve sustainable development.
To protect the environment and fight climate change. The forests, rangelands, mountains, wetlands, and lakes governed as collective resources by Indigenous Peoples and local communities are biodiversity hotspots that regulate water flows, sequester carbon and maintain the ecological balance of our planet. Because we all benefit, we should all protect and strengthen those peoples and customary institutions that have preserved these ecosystems for centuries.

To build a world of justice where human rights are protected for all. Collective land rights are an essential condition for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to enjoy human rights, and uphold cultural diversity. The reality is that even just speaking out to defend land and environmental rights puts people in danger of being forced from their homes, threatened and even killed. We envision a world where all women and men, peoples and communities have the right to shape their own destiny without fear or intimidation.

Why now?
The widespread and enduring lack of recognition of the collective land and resource rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities has become a global crisis, sparking social conflict and undermining efforts to curb poverty, hunger and climate change.

The new Sustainable Development Goals include a strong commitment to end poverty, ensuring that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to ownership and control over land by 2030. This includes also Indigenous Peoples and local communities that enjoy collective rights.

What are we asking?
To achieve our Goal, we are campaigning for an unprecedented mobilization of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, governments, intergovernmental organizations, corporate and other private sector actors, civil society, social movements, and citizens from all over the world. To realize the change we want, we ask that by 2020:

All:

- Champion this Global Call to Action and recognize that securing Indigenous Peoples and community land rights is vital to eradicate hunger and poverty; protect the environment and fight climate change; and build a world of justice where human rights are protected for all.
All Governments:

2. Recognize data and maps produced through community-based monitoring systems.
3. Implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ratify and implement the ILO Convention No. 169.
4. Implement the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and guarantee that everybody can speak out without fear or intimidation.
5. Implement the UN Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.
6. Declare zero tolerance on land grabbing,* including by respecting human rights and the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, inclusive of traditional leaders, men, women and youth.
7. Hold accountable private investors and corporations operating or sourcing goods and services nationally and/or abroad to their human rights obligations.
8. Include the protection of Indigenous Peoples and Community Land Rights - especially for forest-dependent people, small-scale food producers, fisher-folk, and mobile pastoralists - as a pillar of national sustainable development strategies, including those related to climate change, agriculture, environmental conservation, energy, tourism, economic growth and trade.
9. Ensure Indigenous Peoples and local communities rights to maintain traditional occupations and ways of life, and the fair distribution of benefits derived from the use of their lands, natural resources and ecosystem services.
10. (For donor countries) Provide adequate and targeted international development assistance to support the protection of the land rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities everywhere, and to cause no harm to them through other policies.

All Parliaments:

2. Speak out on behalf of their citizens to secure the collective land rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
3. Harmonize all legislation affecting the land rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, so as to ensure their security of tenure, and their right to determine for themselves how those lands will be managed.
4. Advance national legislation and allocate adequate budgets to securing Indigenous Peoples and community land rights.

# LandRightsNow
### All National, Regional and International Human Rights Institutions:


### All corporations, and national and international financial institutions, including banks, pension and private equity funds:

4. Recognize and protect Indigenous Peoples’ and community land rights through their operations, including those of financial intermediaries.

4. Comply with a principle of zero tolerance on land grabbing, including by respecting human rights and the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, inclusive of traditional leaders, men, women and youth.

4. Undertake gender-responsive due diligence on human rights, including by implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

4. Implement and require compliance with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure across their national and international value chains.

4. Develop and implement policies (and establish grievance mechanisms) necessary to avoid, reduce, mitigate and remedy any direct and indirect impact on the lands and natural resources of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

4. Ensure clear commitments, transparency and accountability in any operation and investment that may affect the lands or livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

### The UN Human Rights Council:

5. Approves a resolution on the specific threats faced by land and environmental defenders.

5. Promotes periodic monitoring of land rights among Member States.

### The UN High Level Political Forum:

6. Adopts at least one indicator that measures progress on Indigenous and community land rights, in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

6. Carries out a global thematic review on land rights across all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through an assessment of the area of land legally recognized as owned or controlled by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

All Indigenous Peoples and local communities commit to:

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- Strengthen their institutions, capacities and movements to secure and defend their land rights.
- Assert and exercise the right to free, prior and informed consent, inclusive of traditional leaders, men, women and youth, on matters relating to lands, territories and resources.
- Realize women’s equal participation in the defense and enjoyment of rights to lands, territories and resources.
- Mobilize and build alliances to address threats to Indigenous Peoples and local communities’ lands, territories and resources.
- Protect and promote traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use practices and resource management.
- Carry out gender-sensitive participatory community mapping and community-based monitoring relevant to land tenure, land use and self-determined development.
- Revitalize and strengthen Indigenous peoples’ and local community gender-sensitive governance and institutions, their cultures and languages.

All national and international civil society commit to:

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- Support Indigenous Peoples and local communities in their struggle to secure their land rights, and realize the above mentioned commitments.
- Mobilize other actors (e.g. media, academic and legal community, donors) to support land rights campaigns and programs.
- Coordinate and unite advocacy efforts across policy arenas to secure legal recognition of the collective land rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Identify strategic opportunities to advance Indigenous Peoples and community land rights through gender-sensitive legal processes and policy reform.

* Land grabbing is any “acquisitions or concessions that are one or more of the following: (i) In violation of human rights, particularly the equal rights of women; (ii) Not based on free, prior and informed consent of the affected land-users; (iii) Not based on a thorough assessment, or in disregard of social, economic and environmental impacts, including the way they are gendered; (iv) Not based on transparent contracts that specify clear and binding commitments about activities, employment and benefits sharing, and; (v) Not based on effective democratic planning, independent oversight and meaningful participation”. This widely accepted definition of land grabbing was agreed by all the 116 Members of the International Land Coalition in the 2011 Tirana Declaration.

** The Steering Group of the Global Call to Action have identified these policy asks to advance Indigenous and Community Land Rights, also with the understanding that endorsing organizations and individuals will take up those commitments that align with their own work.