1. THE COMMON GROUND

No debate is required to justify the land is life for the poor women, men, youth, family-farmers, small holder peasant, indigenous peoples (IPs), Dalit community and local communities where they live, grow and put efforts to build the future. A poor without land means a person without entity. They lose confidence, voice, strength of living, place to stand and sustain. It all turmoil their ideas, thought and sense by which they internally feel away from human beings, leading them to the situation of vulnerability. These entire social plights substantiate them to have secured land entitlement. Poor’s access to land creates new opportunities - social and economic- by increasing the chances to access and utilize the productive resources.

It is however, increasingly frightening because of unequal sharing of land rights often losing to advancement on human rights, flourishing and healthy societies and, in many cases narrowing civic space. Since we are collectively working with land poor and vulnerable communities, these issues must be heard in decision-making, especially for their rights to land. Such an unjust to human rights and dignity of women, men and communities also has ignored the deep and multifaceted relationships between people and their land becoming a driver of marginalization, violent conflicts and dispossession of those who have been historically excluded.

Access to land, the way of distribution and dispossession has often been a deliberate political choice. The National Land Coalition (NLC) Nepal has faced the challenges of the unequal power relations that land owned by few at the cost of most vulnerable. Since the land is fundamentally linked to 59 targets and 65 indicators in 13 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with inspiring vision to ‘leave no one behind”, the NLC thus, focuses on to bring them into reality.

The NLC as a national platform is committed to the UN decade of ecosystem restoration for which secured rights to land are crucial to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of the ecosystems so
as to regulate the climate and sustain all life. Without secured land rights including collectively held land and territories, women, men and communities are unable to adapt to and mitigate the impact of the climate emergency. Legal recognition on rights of community, collaborative, leasehold and family forest land rights provide security and increases resilience by incentivizing investment in sustainable management of natural resources. The NLC is committed in giving a platform to community-led restoration initiatives, including agro-ecology and community-led forest and rangelands management. Constitution of Nepal and the associated sectoral laws have also provided considerable legal base for such initiative.

2. CHANGING LAND CONTEXT IN NEPAL'S DEVELOPMENT

Nepal’s land reform efforts initiated during mid 50s in the promulgation of the development plan enclosed few issues. The 1964 Lands Act aimed at fixing land ceiling, redistribution, tenancy rights and, capital formation etc. Changes were made in 1964 Lands Act in 1965, 1968, 1981, 1996 and 2001, 2002, 2018, 2019 and, various high level commissions (1995, 2008 and 2009) formed to revitalize the programs. Inequitable land distribution still exits and, the number of unregistered and informal tenants is now estimated over 200 thousand while the bonded labour and other landless squatters have recently been restless and uprising. The failure of land reform has been so far attributed to the predominance of feudalistic governance system. The Land Act 1964 has opened-up new avenues for the genuine land reform favoring the farmers/tenants, indigenous peoples and marginalized groups. Land policies were found to have negative impact on majority of population and to cause land degradation which has further aggravated poverty.

Land issues have been periodically resurfaced as political agenda according agrarian reform always on the top in the manifestos of major political parties putting the land into key issue of debate. Nepal’s Interim (2007) and the current constitution (2015) broadly stated to implement scientific land reform (SLR) to end the historical feudal relations in land ownership as well as to ensure socio-economic security for socio-economically disadvantaged groups. However, such commitments have fast losing people’s confidence and chaos and frustrations are on the rise and are becoming pervasive elements of political landscape. Disadvantaged madhesis, dalits, janajatis, kamaiyas or victims of conflicts are uprising while they have not seen any tangible actions although the government finalized 13-point action plan for implementation of recommendation for scientific land reform in 2007.

When viewed at the current situation basically after 2015, Nepal’s federal system with 3 levels of governments have begun to step towards formulating land related policies and acts to realize constitutional provisions in securing land and resource rights of indigenous peoples, small-holders, rural-women, dalits, tenant farmers, landless communities and agricultural laborers including haliya, kamaiya, kamlari, harawa and charawa by institutionalizing their agencies and capacitating government institutions at local level so as to improve lives and livelihoods for social justice.

Recognition of land rights of informal settlers and indigenous communities in the legal policy documents; categorization of land as per the Land Use Policy 2015, National Land Policy 2019, and Land Use Act, 2019, distribution of land to landless Dalits to materialize the thrust of the Article 40 (5, 6) of the constitution, ensuring secure and adequate housing for homeless people as envisioned in the Article 37, guarantee food security and food sovereignty as envisioned in Article 36 and promote people centered land and agrarian reform as we have been talking for decades; have become the key issues providing significant challenges in translating peoples aspirations of better lives in to actions in this changed political, governance and legal context in Nepal. The 8th amendment of the land Act (Clause 51B & C) ensures to provide land to landless, manage the informal tenures and, promote women land rights through the formation of special land commission.
Good governance of land resource is identified as a key to open up new avenues to achieve prosperity, equality and justice envisioned by the constitution of Nepal and sustainable development goals. The complexities of the issue under consideration and the diversity in conceptual understanding among the stakeholders are such that the views expressed may not be definitive. However, it can enrich the debate and encourage diverse-stakeholders to add on the common priorities to identify policy solutions and thereby contribute to the National goal of ‘Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali’.

Landlessness is deeply entrenched and rooted in a long history of feudal land governance. Rich but non-farmers have controlled the considerable land holdings entrenching the classist nature of absentee landlordism resulting to a distinct class-based system – rich and poor - that a poor working as farming class though eligible for ownership rights are functionally excluded from such rights leading them to the poverty and hunger. The other question rests on land tenure security. Landless, settlement in unregistered plots, public and community land and tenants of private and guthi land have felt unsecured at their current places and situation since have no legal land titles and so has been the possibilities of taking out their living by government or powerful elites.

Most importantly, the government and non-government agencies work without much data base; if they have, they are not adequate or sufficient. It is very difficult to find the very basic information on availability of land by use, type, and ownership disaggregated by gender, caste, region and land deals. Therefore, the existing land data that government has is always on question as it does not present a real picture. In this situation, many of the development plans are beyond successful implementations.

It seems to be possible only when society becomes inclusive, participatory and extend positive response of all sectors including the donors and international organizations to the changed political context. Nepal’s sustainable management of land issues requires complex interplay of cohesive political culture, strong civil institutions, academic and research institutions, professional bureaucracy, economic society, international supports; and common principle of order - for there may be no other shared vision that might bind together a nation better.

3. OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

Agrarian studies and climate science both justify the essence of improving in food sovereignty through small farming but with priority on organic farming. In the emerging crisis of climate change, we need to develop and progress on the sustainable development goals and grasp the new opportunity to sustain the systems that work for people in a challenging situation of COVID19 pandemic.

Prime goal of securing land rights for people that we call people-centred land governance, is leading to community-led sustainable development. As Nepal’s farming system rests on the integration between land, forest and water connecting each and every component of natural resources, the communities having much of the opportunities are working together on water and forest conservation and management for rural prosperity through enhanced land productivity.

Nepal’s constitution favors progressive changes in the governance and the management of land and agriculture and, thus prioritizes the farmers’ rights and status to tenurial security. The land rights movement therefore, has a significant opportunity to influence laws and policies.

In conjunction with vibrant and favorable national coalition and the people’s grassroots organization in the country, the NLC Nepal can ideally place to coordinate and lead a comprehensive advocacy agenda
based on non-violent activism to secure land, agrarian rights and non agrarian activities to raise income generating sources of the poor.

The constitution has given provincial and local government's greater power to shape local land and agrarian systems by which the local bodies have enough spaces to understand the ground reality and prepare laws and policies according to the demand of the people.

The ambiguous laws, inconsistent policies related to land and their implementation since long back has in fact has jeopardized the land justice bringing a challenge to reduce the poverty among historically marginalized farming communities and establish a truly democratic agrarian economy. It has increasingly been attracting the interest of diverse groups on land and agrarian issues. The rising levels of interest in land and agrarian issues over the years amongst academics, public intellectuals, and the mass media can also be anticipated as an opportunity to develop the discourse around these issues.

Nepal's land is at an increased risk of being grabbed in the name of development and, often involves the cooperation of local authority with the corporate sector justifying the projects for use of public interest. However, the farmers and peasants who work on land for livelihoods are left without alternative, and compelled to place themselves at the mercy of the markets.

Many activities of local authority are not farmer-friendly, and have been subject to various reports of widespread corruption at important institutions, such as land registration offices. This is a major impediment for small farmers trying to secure their rights.

Migration from hills to tarai flat plain in search of comparatively easy livelihoods has given rise to the land fallow in the hills and land scarce in the flat plain areas which however, has neither been the priority nor a clear strategy has come up from the political parties. The voices and concerns of peasant have not been heard but seem to have continued to present in the agenda of the major parties. Many traditional farmers, squeezed out of their livelihoods, have had to give up the profession altogether to seek low-income arrangements elsewhere. The manifestoes of the political parties overwhelmingly address the land issues every time during pre-election period as if they do what they have spoken but this has never been come into effect despite their succession to the power leaving the poor always desperate.

Given these multifaceted issues, 'land reform' and 'natural resource governance' in Nepal has seemingly insurmountable challenges. However, challenges mentioned above are not just risks to be avoided, but are critical aspects with opportunities of greater significance, which must be tackled rationally and taped sustainably.

4. THEORY OF CHANGE

The NLC believes that the coordinated and collective actions between and among the stakeholders bring the change in livelihood of poor women and men. If each of the stakeholder actively involved in community-based activities by building consensus and dialogue for constructive engagement they would come through the transformative action eventually to achieve the growth in sustained livelihoods.

Our theory of change is envisioned to happen in a land context with the process of socio economic and political change with causal linkages in its shorter, intermediate, and longer-term outcomes.

In order to begin this change for transformative action, our people's grassroots organizations, social organizations, and civil society needs to be well-informed to make them critically conscious, capable of action, and, when needed, act as militant. This is to keep both the state and the private sector accountable and responsible. Further, it also can change by awakening the farmers and relevant stakeholders through a combination of critical discourse, capacity building of

1 The poor households, IPs, farmers, frontline land workers, NLC members, the government and INGOs etc
people's organizations, non-violent pressure, protests and campaigns. Investment on networking is essential.

Locally-generated people’s data provides a powerful basis for evidence-based dialogue and subsequent action between governments and civil society. While long-term and inclusive partnerships at national level not only provoke people-centred policies and laws, agendas, and practices, but also shift power to the women, men and communities we serve.

The state intervention is required to involve in justice-oriented norms regarding land management; people oriented norms regarding governance and strategies; participatory methods for planning and mapping, and; accountability at each level of government.

Likewise, the private participation is inevitable on the investments, businesses, and industries run by the private sector in the agrarian sphere must be: in line with the state’s rules, regulations, and policies; run in a way that does not impinge upon anybody’s right to livelihood, and; oriented towards providing significant social value.

What we commit to do are:

- Raise the critical consciousness of all sectors of society regarding matters of land and agriculture, and the injustices related to them.
- Raise voices speaking at various levels in favour of just land distribution through organizing and strengthening the peoples ‘organization, building networks, and facilitating creative dialogue.
- Promote and support grassroots organizations for land and agrarian movement
- Engage the political actors/political parties (intra and inter party) for creating the pro-reform political environment for land reform.
- Engage Youth on agrarian issues in non-violent ways for creating the political momentum of land rights campaign for peaceful and transformative actions.

- Carry out policy advocacy to ensure that state actors, from the local to the national level, are always aware of our analysis and demands.
- Capacitate the key public institutions for dealing with political ecosystem from land rights perspective.
- Contribute to knowledge production, knowledge establishment, and knowledge dispersal in the land and agrarian discourse.
- Facilitate the connection of progressive land reform initiatives through local, regional, and global networks.
- Carry out evidence-based studies, cases and stories/events on climate change and natural resources.

5. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

As we foresee the changes on land and agrarian reforms, a varieties of actions are to be performed during this period of eight years for which, the strategic objectives to cover all possible activities for implementation are listed below:

SP - 1: People Centered Land Governance and Movement

The NLC initiates to practice participatory mapping and prepare practitioners in context of agrarian and non-agrarian reforms at community level to be connected to the climate resilience.

The NLC anticipates the social discourses for governance and building movement on and campaigning about agrarian and non-agrarian activities and discuss modalities of

2 Land and agriculture based income generation activities (IGAs)
agrarian based economics for moving towards social justice and sustainable development

It aspires to create or strengthen vibrant and autonomous people's organizations of farmers to develop participatory leadership and, establish community learning centers to train local leaders of the.

The NLC supports in capacity building of local governments in a way of training, discussion forum, dialogues, workshops and seminars, disseminate finding of the studies if any. The NLC attempts to maintain NLC activities with that of government's priorities whenever possible and deem mandatory to sustain partnership and collaboration to contribute to the overarching goal of socio-economic transformation.

SP - 2: Policy Advocacy for Legal and Political Commitment

The NLC facilitates multi-stakeholder processes in policy discussion at all levels and generates evidences for policy advocacy to inform policy decisions on women land rights, urban poor and farming, indigenous people's territorial resource rights, adaptation to climate change and food system transformation.

It facilitates capacity-building for leaders of people's organization, local political parties and government institution especially the local government to engage them in debates and discussions for policy making.

The NLC organizes conferences, seminars or gatherings to create a platform to share learning and bring the global discourse to Nepal and progress towards people-centered land and agrarian reforms.

SP - 3: Contributing to Knowledge Production and People's Data

The NLC facilitates to conduct studies on climate resilient practices, urban poor and farming, IP's resource rights and options, women land rights, gender equality and social inclusion, existing policy reviews on land and agrarian reforms, land resources use pattern etc.

The NLC aims to publish books, periodical journals, policy reviews papers, position papers and articles that contribute to the national and international discourse on land issues to raise awareness of media movement on a global scale.

Piloting of best initiatives is always in priority to replicate the actions and achievements in places where necessary and the environment looks similar.

The NLC members during their work collect, use and manage their own data on issues related to land, rural institutions, gender equality and social inclusion, climate change, agrarian reforms and livelihoods, resources use patterns which could be used to maintain gender-disaggregated data to advocate for evidence-based policy making.

The NLC Nepal and its members take the responsibilities to collect and use people's data to complement official government data, to track progress against national commitments and to hold governments and other stakeholders accountable. Global Land Governance Index (LANDex) and other ILC-supported tools could help in data generation.

SP - 4: Promote Sustainable Collaborative Farming System

Contribute to enhancing the knowledge and developing the capacities of civil society and peasants' organizations on peasants' rights as enshrined in the United Nations
Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP).

The NLC promotes individuals and institutions having good farming practices to the peasant community those previously marginalized imparting appropriate training.

It is intended to facilitate and execute for the conservation of local traditional crops in their respective localities in collaboration with the community.

It trains the members and leaders of the people’s organizations and, bring them into the engagement in farming methods on existing commons and communal land.

The NLC facilitates the study on how to secure livelihoods in the context of farming - agro and livestock - for small production to sustain their livelihoods.

The NLC ensures small farmers to inform about the provisions, benefits and rights that they are entitled to from government, monitor if they, in reality, are able to access those provisions and benefits, support local, facilitate to secure forest tenure to integrate farming and, governments to increase effective actions.

SP - 5: Youth Action in Agrarian and Land Rights Discourses and Practices for transformation

The NLC aspires to develop future leadership by providing diverse opportunities for youth participation in land and agrarian reform programs.

It promotes the land rights of youths by informing the government about how important it is to attract youths in land and agrarian activities for inclusive socio-economic development through land and agrarian discourse.

The NLC intends to establish an inclusive and easily accessible multi-stakeholder platform for rural and urban youth to raise their voice.

SP - 6: Capacitate the public and policy institutions for land rights justice

The NLC believes that without proper engagement of public institutions, none of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be achieved. Building on the platform synergy, the NLC, therefore provides capacity building trainings and opportunity for joint collaboration for public institutions, peoples’ organizations and development partners on land and agrarian policy and practice.

It will enhance the cooperation and partnership for the transformational change by reducing the duplication of the efforts of stakeholders working on land and agrarian sector.

6. RESOURCE GENERATION AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The NLC aspires to establish effective collaboration and partnership with national and international development partners including the government agencies to achieve its goal of justice-based land and agrarian reform in Nepal. ILC will continue to provide catalytic core fund for NLC’s basic functioning – hosting, coordination and facilitation. While the NLC, as a multistakeholder platform, follows multi-donor modalities that enables development partners – both national and international, NLC members, as well as government agencies – to provide financial contribution to implement this strategy. That means NLC may aggregate the resources of its members and or seek-out external sources - including small scale funding and/or large-scale grants.
Based on the strategic priorities of the members, there will be a multi-actor action plan for strategy execution, a key tool for the NLC to ensure ownership of all involved parties over the initiatives and to access resources as well as to effectively utilize those resources that exist within the broader membership of the NLC.

NLC aims to provide a conducive environment for its members to activate collaboration and joint action that in-turn strengthens and enhances the platform vibrancy and synergy to prompt the actions for land and environmental rights, and social justice. NLC encourages and welcomes those who are working on land and related issues and are willing to contribute in the MSP implementation process.

7. GOVERNANCE OF NATIONAL LAND COALITION

The NLC envisions a 7 members coordination committee for its smooth functioning. Coordination committee will be formed from within the NLC membership.

Coordination committee will have at least 7 members. Apart from the coordination committee, there will be general members in this platform. Coordination committee will be essentially mandated to:

- Formulate and review yearly planning
- Organize policy dialogue, prepare common position about the issues under consideration
- Publicize opinion about specific situation related to land issues/forced eviction
- Support on solidarity for land rights/movement/campaign
- Strengthen Platform and ensure enhanced engagement of the members in the Platform
- Coordination among members through NES Coordinator

The NLC will have a specific TOR for its coordination committee. NLC members meet twice a year. Coordination committee will change in every 3 years. Regarding the participation in the meetings the NLC encourages members to send one male and one female representative. Meanwhile, hosting for meetings will be rotated among members.

As one of the key members, CSRC has been hosting the NES/LGWG and will continue to host NLC. NLC has a fulltime facilitator and finance officer supported by ILC. The NES Facilitator and finance person are now working for this platform in the same capacity.
8. COMMON ACTION PLANS

Brief summary of the common action plan is presented in the table below. The activities presented will be further developed or modified as required.

**Overarching Objective:**

**Expected Outcome:**

**Outcome indicator:**

**Issue under consideration:**

**Proposed Actions:**

### Summary of Detailed Action Plan

#### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (SPS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SP - 1: People Centered Land Governance and Movement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social discourses for governance and building movement (agrarian and non-agrarian activities and discuss modalities of agrarian based economics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice participatory mapping and prepare practitioners (in context of agrarian and non-agrarian reforms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create vibrant and autonomous people's organizations (develop participatory leadership and, establish community learning centers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support in capacity building of local governments (training, discussion forum, dialogues, workshops and seminars, disseminate finding)</td>
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<tr>
<th>SP - 2: Policy Advocacy for Legal and Political Commitment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate multi-stakeholders in policy discussion at all levels (generate evidences for policy advocacy to inform policy decisions on women land rights, urban poor and farming, indigenous people's territorial resource rights, adaptation to climate change and food security.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate capacity-building (for leaders of people's organization, local political parties and government institution)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organize conferences, seminars or gatherings (to create a platform to share learning and bring the global discourse to Nepal and progress towards people-centered agrarian and non-agrarian reforms.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>SP - 3: Contributing to Knowledge Production and People's Data</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generate theories and knowledge (in way of participatory learning on agrarian context and, facilitate for sharing.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilitate to conduct studies (on climate resilient practices, urban poor and farming, IP's resource rights and options, women land rights, existing policy reviews on land and agrarian reforms, land resources use pattern etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications (books, periodical journals, policy reviews papers, position papers and articles)</td>
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<td>Piloting of best initiatives (to replicate the actions and achievements in places where necessary and the environment looks similar.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data generation &amp; use (The NLC members during their work collect, use and manage their own data on issues related to land, rural institutions, climate change, agrarian reforms and livelihoods, resources use patterns which could be used to maintain gender-disaggregated data to advocate for evidence-based policy making)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Data validation

(The NLC Nepal and its members take the responsibilities to collect and use people's data to complement official government data, to track progress against national commitments and to hold governments and other stakeholders accountable. LANDex and other ILC-supported tools could help in data generation)

### SP - 4: Promote Sustainable Collaborative Farming System

**Promote good farming practices** (to the peasant community those previously marginalized imparting appropriate training)

**Conservation of local traditional crops** (in their respective localities in collaboration with the community.)

**Capacity building** (train members and leaders of the people's organizations and, bring them into the engagement in farming methods on existing commons and communal land.)

**Conduct Studies** (on how to secure livelihoods in the context of farming -agro and livestock - for small production to sustain their livelihoods.)

**Support small farmers** (to inform about the provisions, benefits and rights that they are entitled to from government, monitor if they, in reality, are able to access those provisions and benefits, support local, facilitate to secure forest tenure to integrate farming and, governments to increase effective actions.)

### SP - 5: Youth Action in Agrarian and Land Rights Discourses and Practices for transformation

Leadership development program and trainings for youth to engage Youth in land and agrarian discourse

### SP - 6: Capacitate the public and policy institutions (SDG 16) for ensure land rights justice

Capacity building trainings and opportunity for joint collaboration for public institutions, peoples’ organizations and development partners on land and agrarian policy and practice.

Enhance the cooperation and partnership

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### Annex – I

### Terms of Reference

**National Land Coalition (NLC) Nepal**

### Background

*International Land Coalition (ILC)* is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organizations working together to put people at the centre of land governance. The shared goal of ILC members is to realize land governance for and with people at the country level, responding to the needs and protecting the rights of women, men and communities who live on and from the land.

Building on its strength and niche as a network, ILC focuses on creating innovative and inclusive opportunities for its members to connect, mobilize and influence, so as to reduce inequalities, particularly gender inequality ensuring women's land rights and gender justice.

### About National Land Coalition (NLC)

ILC’s country-level work is implemented through *National Land Coalitions (NLCs)*. In Nepal, NLC is at the centre of accelerating the recognition, protection promotion and redistribution of land rights as well as to protect civic space together with its members. In addition to that, it has been attempting to develop joint strategies for partnership to enable systematic change on both policy and practice related to land governance at country-level.

The overarching goal of NLC is to promote ‘justice - based land and agrarian reforms’ in Nepal. NLC aspires to promote and support the policy changes and/or policy implementation with specific policy objectives being determined and prioritized within the country by NLC members.
NLC provides a space for dialogue as the basis for exploring and reconciling stakeholder perspectives and priorities in the land issues. NLC is a unique initiative of the land community working in Nepal to reduce duplication of the program planning and implementation and convergence of the scattered resource and effort for the similar outcome/result. In addition, there are many unreached land and resource victims and increased need for engagement in intensive land related research, advocacy, non-violent mobilization and policy debates, which really requires multi actor engagement.

Hosting and Evolution of the NLC

*Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC)*, has been hosting the secretariat of NES-Nepal, which is later know as Land Governance Working (LGWG) and now evolved to National Land Coalition (NLC). The NES/LGWG has been working to influence policy decisions, support policy formulation, and facilitate actual implementation of land related policies and legal framework also considering the ILC’s 10 commitments to people-centered land governance as their compass, and the Global Land Governance (LANDex), Voluntary Guidelines for Land Tenure (VGGTs) and 2030 Agenda for development as a key benchmark to enhance socio-economic condition of landless, tenants and small holders through improved land governance. NLC will continue to do so through its new strategy developed for 2022 – 2030. NLC as a country focused multi-stakeholder platform could be an effective tool to strengthen country level implementation of people centered land governance in Nepal and contribute to support progress toward the 2030 agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

NLC Nepal acknowledges all the efforts of diverse Governmental and non-governmental organization made towards land rights, land management and people centered land governance in Nepal. However, the efforts in this regard are insufficient and need to strengthen for better collaboration among concerned stakeholders.

Relevance of National Land Coalition (NLC) in Nepal

Lack of access to sufficient land by great majority of the agricultural households in Nepal resulted from unequal distribution of land resource has direct bearing on poverty, food insecurity, under-use and over-exploitation of productive land resource, increasing landlessness, encroachment of government land, continuous dispossession by peasant communities over agricultural land and haphazard settlements.

A participatory and integrated approach is needed to reconcile diverse perspectives and interests at stake and increase land productivity, improve people centered land governance and socio-economic situation.

Therefore, the NLC as a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) in Nepal is designed to provide a space for dialogue as the basis for exploring and reconciling stakeholder perspectives and priorities in the land issues; where stakeholders collaborate to support their objectives, identify common challenges and opportunities, and support shared decision making and collective actions for identified solutions.

In addition, Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) strongly advocates for participatory and inclusive approach which guarantees consultation and endorsement by all stakeholders.

Similarly, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted in 2015 seeks to promote the principle of inclusion through the “leave no beyond” principle.

In Nepal, very few organisations are working on land issues and the coalition helps to strengthen the capacities of members for quality work, tangible results and synergy building on the land sector.
Objectives:

- To make concrete recommendation and contribution through multi-stakeholder policy dialogues, research and activism to advance implementation of people-centered land governance and
- To jointly influence policy decision, formulation and implementation of land related policies, plan, projects and legal framework in Nepal.
- To establish better communication and coordination among all stakeholder and bring the synergy at the program design, implementation and knowledge sharing.

Anticipated Tasks

- Identify critical issues that can go for actions to advance progress at the country level implementation of Land related policies and plans to strengthen PCLG providing space for dialogue between the state, private sector and civil society.
- Explore critical areas of common interest building for intervention on achieved progress of the past and forthcoming work being done by NES Nepal members regarding land governance.
- Facilitate the implementation of land related policies and acts by identifying constraints and play catalytical role in making consensus related land issues.
- Support to establish the linkages between the grass-roots (micro) and the national (macro) realities while formulating and implementing land related policies.
- Explore innovative initiatives for capacity development and mobilization of civil society working on land issues.
- Facilitate to generate minimum common understanding among the like mandated stakeholders regarding land tenure, acquisition and ownership issues.
- Raise land based issues vibrant at the local level to be well considered for national socio-economic and political agenda.
- Collaborate on People Centered Land Monitoring, particularly in the framework of The Dashboard.

Yearly Activities

1. NLC will organize multi-stakeholder policy dialogues/workshop to inform members engagement and opportunities for collaboration for its members Twice a Year. These events can be organized as a planning and review exercise as well depending on the need of the platform members.
2. NLC will organize Nepal Land Policy Conference once a year as an yearly event of land community in Nepal.
3. Express solidarity on the issue of common interest.

Governance Structure

The NLC envisions a 7 members coordination committee for its smooth functioning. Coordination committee will be formed from within the NLC membership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Organizations</th>
<th>Name of the Representative</th>
<th>Position held in NLC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Chairperson</td>
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<td>Member</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Coordination committee will have at least 7 members. Apart from the coordination committee, there will be general members in this
platform. Coordination committee will be essentially mandated to:

- review yearly planning
- organize policy dialogue, prepare common position about the issues under consideration
- publicize opinion about specific situation related to land issues/forced eviction
- support on solidarity for land rights/movement/campaign
- strengthen Platform and ensure enhanced engagement of the members in the Platform
- Coordination among members through NES Coordinator

**Membership**

Civil Society Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations, International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, United Nations Agencies, Government Line Agencies and Academia who work on land and land related issues in Nepal are eligible to join NLC as member organization.

**Governance**

The NLC members meet twice a year. Coordination committee will change in every 3 years. Regarding the participation in the meetings NLC encourages members to send one male and one female representative. Meanwhile, hosting for meetings will be rotated among members.

As one of the key members, CSRC has been hosting the NES/LGWG and will continue to host NLC. The NLC has a fulltime facilitator and finance officer supported by ILC. The NES Facilitator and finance person are now working for this platform in the same capacity.

The NLC members will select 7 members for its coordination Committee. Coordination Committee will elect one among them as a coordinator or chair for the NLC who will take a lead on yearly events for example on multi-stakeholder dialogue initiatives. MSP encourages the participation from all relevant stakeholders who are working on land and land related issues to join.

**Figure 1: Multi-stakeholder Engagement Model**
National Land Coalition (NLC) Nepal

Secretariat hosted at
Community Self-reliance Centre (CSRC)
Tokha-7, Dhapasi, Kathmandu, Nepal
P.O. Box: 19790
Phone: 0977-01-4960486/ 4957005
Email: nes_nepal@landcoalition.info