

**Committee:** Food and Agriculture Organization

**Question of:** Regulating large-scale land acquisitions (so-called land grabbing) and their effect on local food populations

**Submitted by:** Venezuela, Bangladesh

**Co-submitters:** Pakistan, Estonia, Finland, France, Panama, Guyana, Canada, Azerbaijan, United Kingdom, Israel, Saudi Arabia, United States

**Signatories:** Nepal

*Recognizing* that large-scale land acquisitions can contribute to agricultural investment and productivity when responsibly managed,

*Deeply concerned* that poorly regulated land acquisitions can displace local farmers and shift land away from domestic food production toward export-focused agriculture, often leading to food insecurity in developing countries,

*Acknowledging* the importance of land tenure security for ensuring long-term food security

*Emphasizes* that investing in food-insecure areas/nations to protect their food security and land rights helps communities;

*Affirming* the relevance of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture,

*Reminding* all nations the importance of cultural groups and their right to inherited land, Stressing the importance of legal documentation for proof of land ownership,

*Acknowledging* that these large scale Land acquisitions can lead to: displacement of the local farmers; decreased employment declining local food production as these lands are used to export crops/ bio fuels instead of domestic food,

*Recalling* the emergence of land, grabbing in 2024 where 25,000,000 hectares of land in five African countries were seized by Blue Carbon, (a gold base firm that brokers carbon offsets) with little to no consultation of the local communities with reports that 700 members of the local people had been relocated in Kenya,

*Emphasizing* that more than 60% of land grabbed crops in developing countries are intended for the profitable export of commodities such as sugarcane, palm oil and soy, rather than local communities

*Noting* with concern 2/3 of these land deals are situated in countries facing serious hunger problems,

1. Calls upon member states to ensure transparency in large-scale land acquisition agreements by publicly disclosing contract terms, duration, and intended land use through land registries 90 days prior to closing of purchase;
  - a. Large scale land acquisitions defined as “any and all land acquisitions over one hectare,”
  - b. Notification must be given by member states through postage to tenants in surrounding three hectares
2. Encourages the protection of local land ownership/deeds of smallholder farmers from large-scale land acquisitions to ensure they do not undermine food sovereignty;
3. Requests the implementation of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes to guarantee meaningful consultation with affected local communities before land transactions are finalized;
  - a. Local communities should be consulted
4. Urges Member States to prioritize local food security by;
  - a. Safeguarding land used for optimal agricultural potential,
  - b. Ensuring that all arable land is not converted to export-oriented or non-food crops where food insecurity exists to protect the domestic communities
  - c. Encourages countries to find means to assist domestic food producers to
  - d. optimize their production
  - e. Supports checking if land is being used properly in timely increments (no exploitation, providing for the community, ect.),
  - f. Deplores taking land for the purpose obtaining assets;
5. Further requests that participating states of large scale land acquisitions promote environmentally friendly use of land,
  - a. Condemns any excessive deformation and land clearing,
  - b. Supports protecting natural water sources and prohibiting contamination that might cause pollution,
  - c. Expresses its hope for sustainable agricultural and soil conversion methods;
6. Ensure a portion of land production supports local and domestic markets;
7. Require that when land is leased, communities receive market value compensation and job creation, and infrastructure must be guaranteed;
8. Emphasises the importance of timely checks on property to prevent exploitation of local communities.
9. Calls upon nations to provide case priority to farmers who have had their land quickly bought from them by large elite;
10. Affirms the necessity of legal documentation to prove rightful ownership of land:
  - a. Suggests implementation of legal processes in varying nations to ensure landowners can get their land verified in a timely manner;
11. Encourages member states to support previous UN Voluntary Guidelines of Tenure,

