

**Policy Round Table on  
Land tenure and international investment in Agriculture**

***IPC Comments on the Draft concept note prepared by IFAD with inputs from FAO  
July 15, 2010***

1. We would like to commend the Secretariat for the concept note prepared for the CFS Bureau and the Advisory Group meeting held on June 24, 2010, as well as the draft revised version of it sent on 19-7-10. In our opinion, it provides a good overview about the main issues at stake.
2. Discussions during the meeting on June 24 showed that there is a broad consensus about the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Land and Natural Resources Tenure. The inclusive on-going process has been successful in identifying key issues to be addressed by the Guidelines. Given this shared understanding and in order to increase the ownership of governments in this initiative, **we would like to propose to reframe the text of the related expected outcome of the round table as follows:**
  - **“The CFS should request FAO to establish an open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group charged with the task of drafting the Guidelines taking into account the results of the consultations already conducted by FAO. The Voluntary Guidelines should be submitted for approval at the next session of the CFS in 2011.”**
3. In terms of format we would like to recall the proposal we already made in our written comment presented in the meeting on June 24:
  - “(...) the Panel should include first an information point by the CFS Secretariat and/or the proponents of these initiatives about their current status. Then three government representatives, one member of a UN organization and one CSO representative should present their views about the main question: Is it desirable to maintain these two processes, or not? And if yes, proposals about the content, scope and modalities of an intergovernmental negotiation and adoption process should be discussed and agreed upon in each case. The outcome of the panel should be presented in the plenary under the respective agenda point.”
4. In order to contribute to a vigorous debate on land issues in the upcoming CFS, FIAN/IPC in cooperation with the Transnational Institute and the Land Deals Politics Initiatives is preparing a **parallel event with academics on “Competing Views on and Strategies around Land-Grabbing”**. This event is expected to provide the CFS participants with broader informed perspectives about the FAO Voluntary Guidelines and the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment by: (i) sharing data, empirical evidence so far available and analysis about what’s going on (global land grab); (ii) offering some critique of the mainstream assumptions/paradigms in relation to the phenomenon of global land-grab and the proposed regulatory mechanisms, (iii) identifying key issues/perspectives that have been left out and needed to be addressed by any (inter)governmental policy seeking to react/respond to the land-grab phenomenon. Please find attached a draft concept note on the proposed parallel event. **We would highly appreciate it if this information could be shared with CFS participants and representatives of member states as one of the CSO contributions to the 36<sup>th</sup> Session.**