

ICARRD+20

Call for policy and position papers

Second International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, organized by the Government of Colombia

24-28 February 2026, Cartagena, Colombia

The Government of Colombia, with technical support of FAO, will organize the Second International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD+20) in February 2026. This conference takes place twenty years after the FAO International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) (Brazil, March 2006). ICARRD was a landmark event on land access, the fight against hunger and rural poverty, and the pursuit of sustainable development. It paved the way for the adoption, in 2012, of the VGGT by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Furthermore, one year after the ICARRD, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which explicitly recognizes the obligations of States to recognize and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their ancestral territories, including their collective tenure systems. Also, in 2018, the UNGA adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), which provides that states shall respect, protect and fulfil the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas and take legislative, administrative and other steps towards this end. Finally, the international recognition of the importance of international guidance has further motivated FAO to launch a Global Dialogue on Water Tenure and invite Members to engage in discussing principles for responsible governance of water tenure, aligning with the VGGT.

ICARRD+20 aims to renew the global commitment to human rights and agrarian and climate justice, emphasizing the central role of rural communities in land and ecosystem management. ICARRD+20 is expected to promote the implementation of international instruments for just and sustainable governance of land, ecosystems, and agri-food systems.

Call for policy and position papers for ICARRD+20

This call for papers is part of the technical support provided by FAO to the Government of Colombia for the preparation of ICARRD+20. We welcome policy and position papers from Governments and Non-State Actors on the following themes, which are aligned with the thematic axes indicated by the Government of Colombia for the conference:

Access to land and water and tenure security

These papers will address land and water inequalities and tenure insecurity by providing insights on policy measures being implemented such as land redistribution, restitution, recognition of collective and customary land rights, and transformative policies for

advancing women's land rights. Papers that adopt intersectional approaches addressing gender, generational, ethnic and socio-economic inequalities and assess policy implementation against international guidance like the VGGT, UNDRIP and UNDROP are encouraged.

Inclusive and resilient rural development and regeneration

These papers will focus on policy strategies for transitioning to sustainable, inclusive and resilient agri-food systems by addressing topics like biodiversity and agroecological transition, seeds and water rights, investment and technologies, inclusive markets and value chains. Papers that adopt territorial approaches and/or contribute to the Global Dialogue on Water Tenure are particularly welcome.

Strengthening alliances and collective action for peace and agrarian justice

These papers will provide insights into the role of collective action for achieving peace and agrarian and climate justice in rural territories. They will inform on current global, regional and national campaigns of CSOs and Grassroots Movements and show the interfaces and the challenges associated with agricultural, water and climate policies and public and private investments.

Papers should have a strong policy dimension, including policy formulation, consensus making, policy implementation and monitoring. Papers presenting positions of a specific country, a group of countries, individuals or broader stakeholder groups, may be presented in multiple formats, from policy-oriented statements to conference declarations and consultation reports.

The position papers will be submitted to the Government of Colombia along with a consolidated document systematizing the main policy messages conveyed through the papers. These will feed the ICARRD+20 Final Declaration. Please note that the submission of a paper is independent from participation in the conference and the paper presentation process at ICARRD+20.

Guidelines to authors/contributors

The policy and position papers from Governments and Non-State Actors should not exceed 5000 words. Papers should include:

1. Name of the Government entity, grouping/consortium/collective/coalition or individual(s) submitting the paper;
2. Short description of the nature and development process of the paper (for example, final declaration of an international conference, official statement of a coalition of members, individual position paper, etc);
3. A 250-word abstract that clearly and concisely highlights the key policy orientations and proposed actions.

Submit your paper here: (link): vg-tenure@fao.org

Submission deadline: 25 January 2026

For Additional information on ICARRD+20: [Aquí toda la información sobre la II Conferencia Internacional de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, los Encuentros Regionales y Étnico y el Plan Decenal](#)