

**MINUTES FOR THE NLC ANNUAL PLATFORM MEETING HELD AT
HOTEL AFRICANA ON 5th DECEMBER 2023**



Summary of Attendance

Female	Male	Total
26	22	48

This report compiles information and discussions had during the NLC Annual Platform meeting.

Min 01: Opening prayer: Andrew Jjungo from ACCEC led the opening prayer.

Min 02: Introductions: Participants introduced themselves.

Min 03: Remarks from Chair, NLC Steering Committee

The Chair, Frances Birungi welcomed participants to the 2023 Annual platform meeting and requested for members to actively participate in the meeting. She led participants through a brainstorming session of listing 8 thematic areas addressed in the new NLC strategy.

Min 04: Communication from the NLC Host

The NLC host, which is LEMU represented by Benjamin Ouke, Finance and Administrative Manager thanked the platform for the opportunity given to LEMU to be the NLC host for 3 years and declared that it was a smooth journey and “we have had successful cooperation from all partners and we want to say thank you for that level of discipline and maturity because we haven’t had any audit compliancy issues while managing the grant”.

Members were informed that, LEMU being the host, had the mandate to oversee Compliancy, financial and risk management, financial monitoring and reporting of the ILC grant on behalf of NLC Uganda.

Upon successfully managing the ILC grant for 3 years and being in existence for 20 years now, LEMU has proven to be capable, transparent and accountable and is thankful for another term to continue hosting the coalition.

While managing this grant, Benjamin highlighted a few challenges;

- Delayed submission of financial reports and supporting documents from some members.
- The quality of our supporting documents needs to improve.
- The level of conducting procurement processes also needs to improve.
- The level of our communication especially response to emails on financial reports and supporting documents is so wanting.
- The amount allocated to the secretariat of 7% for administrative operations of the grant needs to be increased since the economic fluctuations have affected administrative support.

Min 05: NLC Updates – New NLC Strategy, Activities Implemented; CSO Contribution to the Proposed Amendment of the Land Act and CSO position paper on the Assessment of the 2013 National Land Policy.

The presentation by Dr. Doreen highlighted the 8 thematic areas addressed in the new NLC strategy, Vision, Mission and governance of NLC, activities that were implemented in 2022 and completed in the first quarter of 2023 and CSO position paper on the proposed amendments of the Land Act and the position paper on CSO's assessment of the 2013 National Land Policy. The presentation is attached below;



Presentation-Annual Platform Meeting NLC

Min 06: Thematic Group presentations.

1. Youth, Women and Other Vulnerable Groups: A situation analysis on youth and land governance **presented by Youth Plus Policy Network**



UCOBAC Paper on Youth and Land-Final.

2. Land Rights Defenders: A background paper on community Land Rights Defenders **presented by Witness Radio.**



STUDY REPORT ON CLRDs-Final Version-

3. Natural resource Management: A position paper on issues of pastoralism and land governance **presented by FRA**



Pastoralist paper by FRA-COPACSO nlc pr

4. Tenure systems and land inequality: A study on land governance and climate change **Presented by ULA & LANDnet**



Land governance and
Climate change paper

5. Land and Investment: Complete the implementation of LANDex **presented by Safer World**

Min 07: Discussions and Forging a way forward on issues during presentations.

Hannah Longole from ACC requested for members to take on the issue of pastoralism seriously. She informed members that pastoralists have been globally recognized under the UN Declaration and 2026 is the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists which aims to raise awareness and advocate for the value of healthy rangelands and sustainable pastoralism, as well as advocating for sustainable land management practices, improved ecosystems in food security, Promoting policies in support of pastoralism, Working with organizations at grassroots level to help communities down there to raise our voice together for one cause and increase membership of pastoralist organizations.

Kakura Emmy Kizito from Life Concern: Majority of land owners and users do not have the capacity to stand and defend themselves. Government should build capacity of local community members. As NLC let us build capacity of local community and work together to defend their land rights and property.

Brians Agaba from COPASCO: As pastoralists, one of the challenges we are faced with is scanty data. Those doing advocacy cannot easily trace data about pastoralism. We strongly recommend to be recognized as pastoralists because in this way, data on pastoralists will surface.

David from NUDIPU: Highly appreciated the steering committee for admitting NUDIPU as a member to NLC. He highlighted that from earlier presentations, he did not see the issue of disability come up, he therefore requested for a session or another time to take members through the issue of disability to enable members' mainstream disability in advocacy for inclusion for PWDs in aspect to land.

David highlighted a gap in the position paper of youths saying the presentation focused only on youth as a marginalized group and does not focus on other groups like women, PWDs and the elderly.

He added that, Section 57 of the Land Act requires review from PWDs. It states that No one is allowed on the land board if that person is of unsound mind. According to him, this is discrimination because unsoundness of mind is subjective. This particular section discriminates persons with mental health disabilities.

Another aspect he put across under PWDs relates to low level of awareness of land rights among PWDs who have no idea about their rights.

PWDs are also faced with issues of stigma, discrimination and the same relates to women and girls with disabilities. Widows and single mothers face hardship when it comes to land ownership under customary tenure.

Violence against women with disabilities is high especially when it comes to land. He suggested this to be the discourse that members should entrench in their discussions when it comes to advocacy of inclusion of all persons.

Weak judicial systems where land cases take time to be handled. David suggested that the coalition needs to document cases that have taken time without being handled, then organize a press conference where the chief justice and other legal stakeholders will be invited to bring to their attention these cases.

Dr. Doreen defended the position paper about youth and land that the TOR for writing the youth paper was specifically on youth and in the coalition we do make an inclusion of women and other vulnerable groups.

She also used this opportunity to inform members that NUDIPU is now a member of the coalition and going forward, issues of PWDs are going to take centre stage in what we are doing. It's a category of people that we had under looked but future engagements will involve PWDs.

Agnes Kirabo from FRA asked if position papers have been published so that members continue to engage on these papers and even do various versions of each.

In her view about the paper on youths, Agnes informed members that the youth agenda is getting stunted and stuck at the level of participation and inclusion, for instance, while co-ordinating policy processes, youths are not bringing out these issues. She suggested that one of the ways of progressing out of this is to think about models that can help youths use land so that they transit and grow their own entitlements.

Agnes then paused a question, how do we progress the conversion of the young people beyond participation and presence as opposed to absenteeism?

Dr. Doreen informed members that these position papers will be uploaded to the NLC website.

Christopher Opio from ORRA commented on the issue of access to land. He said the youth problem is not access to land but rather management of these resources.

Hannah Longole from ACC appreciated report presented by witness radio. She wondered why there was no information on Karamoja yet it is a mining region with many investments.

She also highlighted a statement which she saw as misleading from presentation on youths that cultural practices deter youths from accessing land. In her view, this is a negative statement and misleading because we have some best practices in culture and not all are bad. She requested for this statement to be changed.

Paul Mayende from Humanity for Habitat: suggested that the coalition needs to sensitize the youth that for land to be transferred into their names, they need to pay taxes and we can support them by running youth programs for instance, the coalition can partner with master card foundation to see how to support young people to participate on land.

Paul also told members that there are many informal settlements that are arising from land evictions and we should interest government and policy makers to take action by providing essential basic services in form of settlements.

Precious Ampaire asked how the LANDex tool will cater for grassroots' community members who do not know how to operate it.

Immaculate from Saferworld responded that the LANDex tool has a provision for recording responses on someone else's behalf.

Dr. Doreen also informed members that for the land governance data to be captured about a country, all constituencies need to be presented that is CSO's, Youths, Academia, Government, community/ Farmers.

Caroline Hashara from OXFAM commented on Dr. Doreen's presentation on customary tenure. She suggests that we need to have a uniform message to share with communities to reserve their customary land. We need to change the perspective of communities that think that freehold is better than customary land/ if you want to protect your customary land, convert it to freehold.

Herbert from Life Concert; Appreciated witness radios' presentation. He suggested that As NLC, we need to join hands and partner with organizations that work on land to have issues related to land resolved and given priority.

Dr. Doreen encouraged members that working as a coalition has an added advantage because organizations are not single-handedly targeted and for us to continue working to defend land rights of the vulnerable, we need to act cautiously and smart.

Pamela Lakidi from ULA shared that as CSOs, we need to work carefully because if we come hard on government on issues around land grabbing, corruption, we get shutdown. To survive, need to take advantage of areas of common challenge with the government where we shall use our own resources. This will also make us relevant as CSOs.

Pamela also pointed out one main problem that most CSOs grapple with is that most of the donor funding is intentional and planned for. It becomes difficult for us to be recognized of our own research and development. This limits a lot of what we can do. She recommended that NLC should be a place for sharing ideas on how to go around these issues

Pamela referred member originations to LEMU, LANDnet, and UCOBAC to access knowledge that has been accumulated over the years.

Geoffrey Ssebagala shared with members that Witness Radio has just come out of a ban and have been struggling financially though working remotely. He called upon members who wish to support Witness Radio to come on board. For members who were asking why Witness Radio hasn't published any reports yet, it is because they are still collecting data and wouldn't want to share incomplete information with the public.

He recommended that NLC needs to start doing public campaigns using data collected by various organizations while engaging different stakeholders.

Min 08: Brainstorming on activities and priority areas to be included in the 2024 Work plan.

- Strengthen collaborative efforts of NLC members to support grassroots communities.
- Advocating for policy of rangelands.
- Documentation of best practices so that the advocacy that we are doing is informed by the research we have already done.
- Develop an advocacy and communication strategy to guide our advocacy, media engagements, and communications.

- Under investment, let us sensitize communities to know the value of their land so that investors/ government does not grab it.
- Address the issue of investors encroaching wetlands even after acquiring huge chunks of land.
- We need to invite MoLHUD, MPs and engage them in these platform meetings and find out from them what they plan to do / what have they done.
- Clearly define the rights to access, own and control over land.
- Handle the issue of Bataka courts.
- Tackle the issue of Sustainability of the Environment (Chemicals are destroying our land)
- Climate justice vis-a-vis land and investment.
- Follow up on how far the Ministry is considering our recommendations/ position paper as CSOs to the review of the National Land Policy.
- Have a central database as CSOs.
- Sensitize people on where they have to settle.
- Organize NLC meetings at regional level while engaging grassroots communities.
- Push the judiciary to expedite the process of hearing land cases.
- In our work plan, let us define what idle land clearly means as stated in the land Act.
- Have continuous dialogues with duty bearers, MDAs, youth, women where we can tap a lot of information
- Build capacities of local leaders and duty bearers about the land act.

Min 09: Closing remarks:

Dr. Doreen introduced new members who joined NLC this year.

1. Allied Workers Association Ltd
2. NUDIPU
3. Uganda Land Owners Association

She thanked participants for coming to the meeting and for actively participating in the discussions held.

She further thanked member organizations especially OXFAM, FRA, PELUM and SAFERWORLD for funding activities in the 2023 Work plan.

Closure: The meeting ended at 4:15pm

Pictorial



List of Participants.

No	Name of Participant	Organization	Location	No. of Invitees
1.	Chris Opio	ORRA	Hoima	1
2.	Barbara Abisobora	TASHA Research Institute Africa	Hoima	1
3.	Hannah Longole	ACC	Karamoja	1
4.	Taremwa Albert	LOSCO	Kabaale	1
5.	Monica Nalugo	AWARE	Karamoja	1
6.	Herbert	Life Concern, Zombo	Zombo	2
7.	Kakura Emmy Kizito	Life Concern, Zombo	Zombo	
8.	Beatrice	Land Justice Network	Kampala	1
9.	Brians Agaba	COPASCO	Kampala	1
10.	Achola Lilian	LANDnet	Kampala	3
11.	Judith Atukunda	LANDnet	Kampala	
12.	Stella Akutui	LANDnet	Kampala	
13.	Immaculate Nalubyayi	SAFERWORLD	Kampala	1
14.	Godwin Okiror	ACME	Kampala	1
15.	Esther Kitembo	ActionAid	Kampala	1
16.	Hannah Mwesigwa	AWAL	Kampala	1
17.	Frances Birungi	UCOBAC	Kampala	2
18.	Agnes Kirabo	FRA	Kampala	3
19.	Kato Paul	FRA	Kampala	
20.	Freda Laura Orochi	FRA	Kampala	
21.	Pamella Lakidi	ULA	Kampala	1
22.	Geoffrey Ssebagala	Witness Radio	Kampala	1
23.	David Oming	ESSAF	Kampala	1
24.	Colline Saabwe	Youth Plus	Kampala	2
25.	Rita Namirembe Nsubuga	Youth Plus	Kampala	
26.	Caroline Hashara	OXFAM	Kampala	1
27.	Martha	T.I	Kampala	1
28.	Amumpaire Precious	SSA	Kampala	4
29.	Odella Brian Paul	SSA	Kampala	
30.	Charles Mugabe	SSA	Kampala	
31.	Caroline Maud	SSA	Kampala	
32.	Joshua Busingye	Think IT	Kampala	1
33.	Lubanga Moses	ULOA	Kampala	1
34.	Jenifer	Mindset Change	Kampala	1
35.	Patricia Oballim	UPLMF	Kampala	1
36.	Jessica Omodo	PELUM	Kampala	1
37.	Andrew Jjungo	ACCEC	Kampala	1
38.	Nancy Nanyonga	New Vision/ Photography	Kampala	1

39.	Paul Mayende	Habitat for Humanity	Kampala	1
40.	Oscar Okech	PPF	Kampala	1
41.	Dr. Doreen Nancy Kobusingye	NLC	Kampala	1
42.	Dr. Theresa Auma	LEMU	Kampala	7
43.	Liz Neate	LEMU	Kampala	
44.	Alex Ssebukalu	LEMU	Kampala	
45.	Benjamin Ouke	LEMU	Kampala	
46.	Miller Oluka	LEMU	Kampala	
47.	Peter Ojangole	LEMU	Kampala	
48.	Florence Adupo	LEMU	Kampala	