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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Statement by the International Labour Organization to the 18th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Item 11: Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanisms on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

**United Nations Headquarters, New York
Ms. Carmen Moreno, ILO**

Chair, members of the Permanent Forum, delegates.

2019 marks the ILO's Centenary as well as the 30th anniversary of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169.

Despite the progress made over the last three decades, indigenous and tribal peoples continue to be disproportionately affected by marginalization and exclusion. Importantly, concerns regarding their rights and well-being are an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. In this context, Convention No. 169 offers a unique framework for promoting the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples as an integral part of inclusive and sustainable development, contributing to the elimination of poverty, tackling inequality, while promoting the economic empowerment of women and ensuring access to decent work without leaving anyone behind. Furthermore, the Convention contributes to building justice and peace.

This anniversary year provides a strong impetus for the promotion of ratification and effective implementation of Convention No. 169 across all regions. Dialogue across the United Nations system is indeed crucial in this respect.

Convention No. 169 is a unique international treaty, spelling out international obligations that are binding on ratifying countries. As a matter of fact, there is no other human rights treaty with specific provisions concerning indigenous and tribal peoples' rights.

Implementing a dedicated strategy for action concerning indigenous and tribal peoples, the ILO supports and facilitates spaces for learning and experience sharing regarding the implementation of the Convention. The guidance of ILO supervisory bodies plays a key role in this context. In line with its constitutional mandate, the ILO supports its Members and constituents in matters related to the Convention, including through advisory services concerning the scope of its provisions.

Last March, the ILO Governing Body discussed ILO engagement concerning Convention No. 169 with UN system bodies, underlining the importance of system-wide coherence. The ILO stands ready for dialogue and partnerships to make sure that Convention No. 169 is understood, ratified more widely and effectively implemented.

We are pleased to announce that the ILO is convening a dialogue meeting on Convention No. 169 in Geneva, Switzerland, this July. We look forward to welcoming the UN mechanisms on the rights of indigenous peoples on this occasion.

Finally, we would like to cordially invite Forum participants to a side event to mark the 30th anniversary, tomorrow, Thursday, 25 April, in Conference Room 7 starting at 6:30 p.m. ILO constituents will share their experiences and challenges in the Convention's implementation in Latin America.