



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Statement by the International Labour Organization to the 17th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Item 11. Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples: (c) Implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan on indigenous peoples

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Mr. Martin Oelz, ILO

Chair, members of the Forum, delegates,

As you are aware, the outcome document of the World Conference urged for further ratification of the ILO Convention No. 169 and recalled the obligation of ratifying States to develop coordinated and systematic action to protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

We are pleased that the Parliament of Luxembourg recently decided in favour of ratification. Over almost three decades, Convention No. 169 has profoundly changed constitutions, institutions, laws and policies in ratifying states, thanks to its distinct status under both international and national law.

Yet, ensuring the Convention's further ratification and full implementation requires continuing efforts, including highlighting the added value of clear legal frameworks for ensuring rights.

Despite the Convention's visibility, knowledge about its scope, and ways and means to implement remains low among policy and decision makers.

Where implementing measures have been put in place, institutional capacities remain weak, particularly for ensuring the proper functioning of mechanisms for consultation and participation.

Guided by the 2015 ILO strategy for action concerning indigenous peoples and as a contribution to the UN System-wide action plan, the ILO has been stepping up support as regards the Convention to governments, indigenous peoples and workers' and employers' organizations, particularly in Latin America.

ILO action includes technical advice, creating opportunities for dialogue and learning, research and offering practical tools.

A Regional Forum on Convention No. 169 was held in November 2017 in Lima, and a regional training course earlier this month in Guatemala. These activities were marked by an active and positive dialogue involving ILO's tripartite constituents and indigenous peoples.

The ILO has been honored to participate in the regional process spearheaded by the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) that culminated in the adoption of the Ibero-American Action Plan for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We look forward to continued collaboration with FILAC and other sister agencies in this context.