

PRO 169 & IP-LED

The key activities of the programme are:

- Contribution to international processes such as the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, inter-agency coordination;
- Capacity-building for indigenous peoples organisations, community-based organisations, governments and social partners at both international, national and local levels;
- Support to regional initiatives in Africa, Asia and Latin America (for example with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights); and
- Promotion of the rights and improvement of the socio-economic situation of indigenous peoples in selected countries.

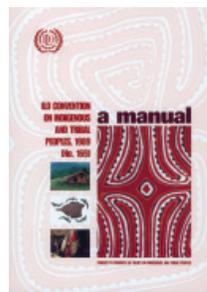


Training and capacity-building are key components of all our activities. Every year, we receive the OHCHR indigenous fellows at ILO Headquarters, and we do training courses for specific target groups at regional, national and local levels.

We also work with the ILO's International Training Centre in Turin to provide training on indigenous peoples' issues - not only for government and indigenous partners but also for staff of the ILO and other international organizations.

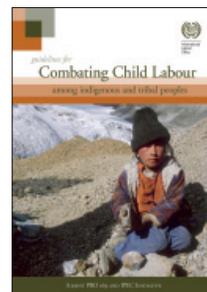
Training materials

We have developed a comprehensible package of training materials – which is constantly growing as new tools and instruments are being added. The tool box is available on-line and on CDs.



Manuals & handbooks

We publish guides and manuals on the conventions and themes that are related to indigenous peoples' issues, with the aim of using these for awareness-raising and capacity-building for all relevant partners, including indigenous communities.



Case studies & country reports

We also publish studies focusing on certain peoples, countries or themes. These, we hope, can serve as assets both for the countries and peoples concerned but also for others as lessons to learn from.



Newsletters

Our publications also include our newsletter, which contains articles that highlight parts of our ongoing work, our projects and recent findings. With this we want to share our experiences and make them accessible to a wider audience.

For more information, please contact us and visit our webpage:

www.ilo.org/indigenous

Programme to Promote ILO Convention No. 169 (PRO 169) Standards Department

International Labour Organization
4 Route des Morillons
CH – 1211, Geneva 22, Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0) 22 799 7556
Fax: +41 (0) 22 799 6344
Email: pro169@ilo.org

Indigenous Peoples & Local Economic Development (IP-LED) Job Creation & Enterprise Development Department

International Labour Organization
4 Route des Morillons
CH – 1211, Geneva 22, Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0) 22 799 6646
Fax: +41 (0) 22 799 7978
Email: led@ilo.org



International
Labour
Office

Promoting the rights and reducing poverty of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples

PRO 169 & IP-LED

Indigenous and tribal peoples shall enjoy the full measure of human rights and fundamental freedoms without hindrance or discrimination

Article 3(1), ILO Convention No. 169

Indigenous and tribal peoples comprise more than 5,000 distinct peoples with distinct and unique cultures, languages, beliefs, knowledge and livelihood systems. This is a heritage of diverse knowledge that is a resource for the whole world.

The majority of these peoples live in developing countries where, through processes of colonisation and marginalisation, they have lost control over their own development process. Many of these peoples have lost their access to land and natural resources, which are essential not only for economic purposes but also for their cultural identity and spiritual well-being.

These peoples often constitute the poorest segment of the societies where they live and they are disproportionately represented among the victims of human rights abuses, conflict, discrimination as well as child labour and forced labour.

Indigenous women face additional gender-based marginalisation. In this sense, promoting indigenous and tribal peoples' rights and improving their social and economic situation is crucial for achieving the broader development objectives such as respect for human rights, democracy, good governance and poverty reduction.

History of ILO and Indigenous and Tribal Peoples

PRO 169 & IP-LED



1989

In 1986, a Meeting of Experts was held, which recommended the revision of Convention No.107. The revision took place during 1988 and 1989, and the draft was finally adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 76th Session in 1989 as the **ILO's Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (No. 169)**. Since its adoption, Convention No. 169 has gained recognition as one of the most important international instruments on indigenous and tribal peoples. As of August 2008, it had been ratified by 19 countries.

1920s

The issue of indigenous and tribal peoples was first looked into when the ILO focused on the situation of rural workers in the 1920s and found out that there was a large proportion of indigenous and tribal workers among them.

1950s

A Committee of Experts on Indigenous Labour adopted a series of resolutions, aiming at making sure that national legislation would take indigenous workers into consideration. These resolutions also included themes such as land and improved living standards. The work of the Committee resulted in the ILO publication *Indigenous Peoples: Living and Working Conditions of Aboriginal Populations in Independent Countries* in 1953.

1957

At the International Labour Conference's 40th session in 1957, **Convention No.107** on Indigenous and Tribal Populations was adopted. This Convention was groundbreaking as it was the first international treaty on this subject and addresses many important issues such as land rights, labour and education.



1996

The ILO initiates its technical cooperation to promote indigenous peoples' rights, with the support of the Government of Denmark.

Since the 1990s, the ILO has provided technical assistance in order to promote the rights and socio-economic development of indigenous peoples. The main programme components are: the **Programme to Promote ILO Convention No.169 (PRO 169)**, and the **Indigenous Peoples and Local Economic Development (IP-LED)** project.

The overall objective of PRO 169 & IP-LED is that: Indigenous and tribal peoples' rights are promoted and their socio-economic situation improved, in compliance with the principles of ILO Convention No. 169. The programme is coordinated from ILO Headquarters in Geneva but currently has field coordinators in Phnom Penh, Yaoundé, New Delhi, Kathmandu, and Lima. Through this field presence, we strengthen our partnerships and contribute to the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights through long-term processes in these regions and countries.

Activities are currently funded by the Governments of Denmark, Norway and Spain, and by the European Commission.



The approach of PRO 169 & IP-LED is based on ILO Convention No. 169, respecting the rights of indigenous peoples to fully participate and define their own priorities for the process of development. However, recognising the general importance of International Labour Standards and employment issues for indigenous peoples, the work is increasingly involving other sectors of the ILO. In particular, ILO Conventions on discrimination, child labour and forced labour have proven to



be of crucial importance to indigenous peoples, and ILO programmes to eliminate child labour and forced labour are now working with indigenous peoples all over the world.