



International
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A person wearing a large, colorful, striped turban and a vibrant, patterned garment is seen from the back, carrying a large bundle on their head. They are standing on a grassy bank overlooking a large body of water with mountains in the distance under a clear blue sky.

► **Implementing the ILO
Indigenous and Tribal Peoples
Convention No. 169**
Towards an inclusive,
sustainable and just future

IMPLEMENTING THE ILO INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL PEOPLES CONVENTION No. 169

**TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE
AND JUST FUTURE**

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Implementing the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169: Towards an inclusive, sustainable and just future

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PREFACE

The year 2019 marked the International Labour Organization's centenary and the 30th anniversary of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169). The history of the ILO's pursuit of social justice has been closely intertwined with improving the well-being of indigenous and tribal peoples worldwide. Convention No. 169 was a culmination of the ILO's, including its tripartite constituents', commitment towards addressing the concerns of indigenous and tribal peoples, and promoting their rights. It continues to be the only legally binding treaty on the issue open for ratification. It has played a significant role in shaping laws and policies, instituting change and empowering many indigenous women and men. Taking its work forward, the ILO in 2015 put in place a Strategy for action concerning indigenous and tribal peoples, which was designed through a consensus-driven process and endorsed by its tripartite constituents. In line with its Strategy, the ILO engages in qualitative and quantitative research to close knowledge gaps regarding the socio-economic conditions of indigenous women and men.

Ten years remain for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the heart of which is the principle of leaving no one behind. As this report will show, the urgency of addressing the concerns of indigenous and tribal peoples, particularly indigenous women, cannot be overstated for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This report takes up the ambitious task of peeling away the layers of invisibility that indigenous and tribal peoples face, particularly in terms of data, and statistics, to highlight the scale of their population. It further unpacks the experiences of inequalities, which are distinctly manifested in the world of work, with gaps in treatment, outcomes and rights between indigenous and non-indigenous populations, but also between indigenous women and men. The report further sheds light on the persistent specter of poverty shaping the realities of indigenous women and men today, at a time when their world of work is experiencing many transformations – from greater dependence on urban areas and the informal economy to attempts at building green enterprises and combating climate change. The findings from the report make it clear that the realization of the SDGs is under threat unless urgent course correction, through public policies, is undertaken, which not only addresses gaps, but also empowers indigenous women and men as development and climate actors.

A fundamental facet of the exclusion faced by indigenous women and men, overcoming the lack of participation and consultation, becomes indeed a critical point of departure for building responsive and coherent public policies. The report looks into some of the experiences and challenges in legal and institutional frameworks for indigenous and tribal peoples' consultation and participation, calling for increased investments into building state institutions in charge of consultations, and ensuring institutionalized and continuing dialogue with indigenous and tribal peoples.

As noted in the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, the world of work is experiencing many transformations shaped by factors ranging from climate change to globalization. At the same time, countries are striving to achieve the SDGs and tackle the climate crisis. Indigenous women and men, representing a large and diverse population spread across many regions of the world will hold solutions to both achieving the goals set out by the international community as well as building a future of work that is sustainable and inclusive. Urgently focusing on the disadvantages, while also harnessing transformations that are shaping the experiences of indigenous and tribal peoples today will be fundamental. It is hoped that this publication will contribute to ensuring that inequalities, injustices and invisibility do not continue to limit the potential of indigenous women and men in building a world that works for all.

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