

**12th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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**Agenda Item 7:
Human Rights:**

**Intervention by:
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Member, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Thank you, Chairperson

IMPORTANCE OF ILO CONVENTIONS NO 169, 107 & 111

I wish to thank the representative of the ILO for his intervention. We appreciate the importance of the ILO Conventions No. 169, 107 and 11, and we should indeed seek to have more and more countries ratify Convention 169. However, the ILO tripartite system has some limitations and challenges for the direct participation of indigenous in the ILO system, which need to be looked into, and addressed.

REFORMING OR INNOVATING UPON THE ILO TRIPARTIE SYSTEM TO FACILITATE DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE ILO SYSTEM

We are aware that the ILO is a tripartite system, including governments, employers' associations and trades unions, who attend the International Labour Conferences and otherwise participate in the ILO's work. However, indigenous peoples cannot directly participate in the proceedings of the ILO unless they also happen to be part of a government or employer's association or trade union.

EXAMPLES OF INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION IN ILO MEETINGS

There are a few examples of indigenous peoples' participation in ILO conferences, such as in the case of the Sami Parliament in Norway, which jointly participates in some spheres of ILO work, in conjunction with the Government of Norway. However, there are several states parties to the ILO Conventions that do not have formal institutions that could partner their national governments. Moreover, even in countries where such indigenous institutions are present, their relationship with their governments often does not enable them to work together with their governments with regard to participation in ILO processes. It is therefore vital that the existing process be reformed to enable direct participation of indigenous peoples.

During the drafting of ILO Convention 169, indigenous people were able to participate in the concerned discussions, although they were not part of governments, employers' associations or trades unions. Drawing upon such a

precedent, new ways can hopefully be found to find a solution to this impediment.

GREATER EXPERTISE WITHIN THE ILO COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

In some cases, it seems that there is much scope to improve the expertise of the members of the Committee of Experts, which monitors ILO conventions, including Conventions 169 and 107.

We look forward to innovative steps to deal with the aforesaid shortcoming within the ILO system.