

WGIP 94 UN/UNIP

Working Group

Technical Meeting  
International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

International Labour Office  
Speaking Notes

I. ILO activities

The Office will report to the Governing Body in November 1994 on ILO activities for the Decade. This will include the following activities:

- continue to support the ratification and implementation of the ILO's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169);
- continue supervisory activities for those countries which have ratified Convention No. 169 and the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 (No. 107);
- continue and increase programmes of technical assistance and technical advisory services. Information has been submitted to the Centre for Human Rights on ILO activities in different countries, so no detail here. But covers at present countries in Latin America, Europe and Asia, for questions including: legal rights; legislative and administrative provisions and revision; traditional economic activities, and economic empowerment; land rights; et al.;
- publication of information materials.

II. ILO cooperation with other international organizations

- continue to work, as for many years, on the standard-setting activities of the United Nations and of the OAS; objective is the coherence of international law on this subject;
- Intend very soon to renew consultations among organizations of the UN system to coordinate practical activities. These meetings have been going on, on an irregular basis, since 1990 and we would like to formalize them further. Naturally, in full cooperation with the Coordinator and other international organizations, with long-term objective of agreeing to common guidelines on practical activities;

- hope to consider the expansion of these consultations to regional development banks and to national development agencies;
- Will continue to consider the possibility of new instances of cooperation such as the meeting in Khabarovsk;
- will reconvene the meeting of indigenous and agencies, on access to agencies, that took place in December 1992 at the opening of the International Year;
- continue working with the Regional Fund for Indigenous Development in Latin America;
- more generally, intend to continue and reinforce cooperation and interaction with the rest of the UN system and with other relevant international organizations;
- glad to support the idea of themes during the Decade, if this is decided upon;
- as concerns the Working Group, hope to discuss the possibility of increasing cooperation, particularly for the review of developments. This kind of collaboration already exists between the ILO and, e.g., the Working Group on Slavery and the UN treaty bodies, but until now the ILO's submissions of information on developments in countries has not given rise to discussion;
- finally, hope to increase the attention to indigenous issues in the supervision of other international instruments, through the provision of additional information from the ILO's supervisory bodies and its technical cooperation activities.

### III. Cooperation with indigenous and tribal peoples

- Basic principle of grass roots participation in all ILO activities;
- long history of collaboration with indigenous organizations, both international and national, to spread training on human rights and to help empower indigenous and tribal peoples to assume growing control over their own lives;
- look forward to the establishment, during the Decade, of a permanent forum for indigenous and tribal peoples.