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Working Paper No.2/Addendum 1

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection of
Minorities

Working Group on Indigenous Populations
Fifth Session
Geneva, 3-7 August 1987

Items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS PERTAINING TO THE PROMOTION AND
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF
INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

STANDARD-SETTING ACTIVITIES:

EVOLUTION OF STANDARDS CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF
INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

Material received from specialized agencies and
other bodies within the United Nations system

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

[Original: ENGLISH]
[24 April 1987]

In accordance with the usual practice, the ILO is glad to be able to update the information previously communicated to the United Nations on the ILO's activities relating to indigenous and tribal populations, for the information of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

The ILO had previously informed the Working Group that the Governing body of the International Labour Office had convened a Meeting of Experts to consider the revision of the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 (No. 107). 1/ This meeting was held in September 1986, and was attended by representatives of the Centre for Human Rights and of other inter-governmental organizations, in addition to experts appointed by the Governing Body. A number of non-governmental organizations were also present as observers. The Centre for Human Rights already has received a copy of the report of the Meeting of Experts. 2/

The Meeting concluded unanimously that Convention No. 107 urgently requires revision, and at its 234th Session (November 1986) the Governing Body decided to include on the agenda of the 75th Session of the International Labour Conference (June 1988) the first discussion of the partial revision of this instrument. It is expected that the Conference will discuss the revision also at its 76th Session in June 1989, when a revised Convention should be adopted.

With a view to the discussion in the 75th Session of the Conference, the Office has prepared a law and practice report on this subject, including a questionnaire, which will be sent to all member States. On the basis of their replies, a second report will be prepared to serve as the basis for the first discussion. The law and practice report should appear in May 1987. 2/

It may be emphasized that the United Nations, as represented by the Centre for Human Rights, has been consulted at every step in the revision process so far, and will continue to be so consulted. The United Nations, along with the other specialized agencies of the United Nations system concerned, collaborated closely in the adoption of Convention No. 107, and all of these organizations have expressed their support for the revision.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Meeting of Experts, it is expected that the revision will focus on the basic orientation of Convention No. 107, and on its provisions concerning land rights and recruitment and conditions of work.

In addition to the revision of Convention No. 107, the ILO's supervisory bodies have continued to consider the implementation of Convention No. 107 by countries which have ratified it. The ILO has already provided information on the observations and direct requests made by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations at its March 1986 session of this Convention. 2/ Further to the comments made by the Committee of Experts, the Conference Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations discussed, at the 72nd Session of the Conference in June 1986, the application by Bangladesh and India of this Convention. These discussions are reflected in the report of this Committee. 2/

In preparing the 1987 Session of the Committee of Experts, the reports received on the application of this Convention were sent, as is the usual practice, to the United Nations and to other specialized agencies for their comments. At its 1987 Session, the Committee made observations (or published comments) concerning the application of Convention No. 107 by Bangladesh, Brazil, Ecuador, India, Pakistan, Panama and Peru; it made direct requests (unpublished comments) concerning Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guinea-Bissau, Pakistan, Panama, Peru and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The ILO will, as usual, appoint a representative to attend the next session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in August 1987.

Notes

- 1/ E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1985/WP.2/Add.1, pp.2-3
- 2/ Available for consultation in Secretarial files.