



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES INDIGENOUS VOICES

# Training of Trainers on Indigenous Peoples' Issues

ILO International Training Centre, Turin  
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## **Guiding Principles on Lands, Territories and Natural Resources**



United Nations

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

# Overview

The background of the slide features a large, faint watermark. It consists of a globe with a grid of latitude and longitude lines, surrounded by a laurel wreath. In the center of the globe, there is a stylized emblem of a hand holding a smaller globe, symbolizing care and stewardship.

- Sources and impact of land rights conflicts
- Respecting land rights and/or safeguard policies
- What do the UNDG Guidelines say about lands, territories and natural resource?

# What are some of the main sources of land rights conflicts?

- Private land ownership
- Agriculture
- Mining and other extractive industries
- Infrastructure construction works
- Protected areas, natural parks, heritage sites
- CDM, carbon trade, REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation of Forests in Developing Countries) and Payment for Environmental Services (PES) projects

# Many negative impacts!

- Continuous tensions, road blocks, demonstrations, etc. – societal unrest
- Forced displacement
- Dispossession of territories
- Militarization of indigenous lands
- Social disturbances within communities
- Health impacts
- Environmental degradation
- **Ultimate impacts:** Further decrease of living standards, development chances and choices, marginalization, poverty, loss of identity, etc.



# Respecting rights and/or safeguarding policies

- Development agencies often refer to indigenous peoples' special ties to lands, territories and resources but in their policies and practices they do not recognize and respect indigenous peoples' land rights
- Weak 'safeguard policies' and/or vague operational policies and guidelines are not sufficient to effectively prevent such violations
- **UNDRIP Article 32:** *Land and resource-related projects shall not be implemented without the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples*

# What do the UNDG Guidelines Say?

- Indigenous peoples' lands and territories should be largely recognized, demarcated and protected from outside pressures;
- States should recognize the traditional management systems of indigenous peoples
- Indigenous peoples also have rights to lands used traditionally (e.g. nomadic peoples, shifting cultivators, etc.)
- Where lands have been appropriated for the purposes of national development, restitution or redress is recognized
- All efforts should be made to ensure that indigenous peoples determine the activities that take place on their lands
- Indigenous peoples' rights to resources that are necessary for their subsistence and development should be respected

# What do the UNDG Guidelines Say? (cont.)

- In the case of state owned sub-surface resources on indigenous peoples' lands, indigenous peoples still have the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and a right to any benefit-sharing arrangements
- Impacts on the environment and sacred and cultural sites are to be avoided;
- Living in voluntary isolation is the expression of the right to self determination and to decide your own present and future
- Indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation have the right to live freely in that condition and States should adopt adequate measures to protect their territories, environment, and cultures

# Thank you very much!

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