Empowering Indigenous Peoples

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Outline

• Disempowering Indigenous Peoples;
• UN Declaration as a basis for empowering Indigenous Peoples;
• Indigenous Peoples and Decent work;
• Policies shift;
• Strategies for empowering indigenous peoples.
Disempowering Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous peoples:

• 370 million in some 70 countries (UNFPA).
• 5% of the world’s population,
• 5% of the world’s poor (IFAD).

Concepts:

terra nullius - public domain - national interests promote dispossession of lands, territories and knowledge systems.
UN Declaration as a basis for empowering Indigenous Peoples

• UNDRIP framework for empowering Indigenous Peoples.

• UNDRIP does not confer new rights.

• UNDRIP affirms the social, political, economic, cultural and political rights recognized by other international instruments.

• Indigenous Peoples’ rights are NOT special rights
Indigenous Peoples and Decent work

• NO specific policy document
• ILO Convention No. 169 overcomes discrimination of indigenous peoples but NOT indigenous peoples in the work place.

• ILO 169 is one of the least ratified conventions, with only 22 ratifications to date.
  - Majority: Latin American countries.
  - Asia: Nepal and Fiji
  - Africa: Central African Republic
Policies shift

• **Recognition** "how do you empower that which you do not recognize"?

• **Two-way capacity building**

• **Development of Indigenous Peoples by states and UN agencies:**
  - UNDRIP,
  - UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Issues,
  - IASG
  - Other UN agencies are yet to develop policies.
Strategies for empowering indigenous peoples

• Development of a collective, shared vision.

• Accelerated recognition of rights will reduce marginalization.

• Provision of quality education to indigenous children.

• Partnerships for development.

• Indigenous Peoples entrepreneurship programs.
continuation...

• Mechanisms for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.

• Good governance.

• New forms technology and social media.
Thank you
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