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**Statement by
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Third Committee
Agenda item 66: Indigenous Issues**

Mr. Chair,

In its work towards the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, the ILO views combating discrimination based on indigenous or tribal origin and identity as a central aspect of the organization's efforts to address exclusion and marginalization.

Since the proclamation of the Second Decade, the ILO has considerably scaled-up its work on indigenous peoples' issues and has further strengthened the links between its supervisory bodies and its technical cooperation programmes. At the moment, there are a number of specific programmes that address indigenous peoples' issues within the organization, thus creating synergies and further building the capacity and expertise of the ILO to mainstream indigenous peoples' issues throughout the organization and to support its constituents in their efforts to promote and protect indigenous peoples' rights.

Almost twenty years of experience in the application of Convention No. 169 have clearly evidenced that the principles of consultation and participation are key to bringing about an inclusive national development process that respects indigenous peoples' rights and aspirations. Regular, systematic and institutionalized mechanisms for consultation and participation at the national level need to be established in close cooperation with the indigenous and tribal peoples concerned.

One of the good practices in the promotion of non-discrimination and inclusion of indigenous peoples is the comprehensive documentation of legal and constitutional provisions for indigenous populations/communities in African countries. In collaboration with the Working Group of the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights and implemented with the University of Pretoria/Centre for Human Rights, the ILO has undertaken comprehensive research to document the situation of legal protection of indigenous peoples in Africa. A total of 24 country reports have been elaborated and the key findings and recommendations have been compiled in the "Overview report of the Research Project by the ILO and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the constitutional and legislative protection of the

rights of indigenous peoples in 24 African countries". The Report was adopted by the Commission at its 45th Session in May 2009 and its adoption is a positive indication of the ownership that was generated in the process.

In Latin America, the ILO has recently published a Case Book on the Application of Convention No. 169 by Domestic and International Courts. This publication summarizes the judicial decisions adopted in 11 countries in Latin American countries, including the Inter-American system reports. It highlights how the continent's courts at all levels have based their decisions on ILO Convention No. 169 in rendering their judgments.

The ILO also develops inter-regional training and advocacy material. In this context, the recently published "Implementing Indigenous Peoples' Rights: A Practice Guide to ILO Convention No. 169" summarizes the experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights across the globe. This Guide is a catalogue of ideas that can be used as a source of inspiration by indigenous organizations and governments and is based on sources of information such as analyses and comments made by the ILO supervisory bodies, case studies and short examples of practical experiences from all regions of the world.

Finally the on line training website (www.pro169.org) and the Training Tool Box feature all the necessary materials for a one-week course on indigenous peoples' rights and development, including video-interviews, power point presentations, documentary films, background documents, and other tools.

Mr. Chair,

This year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Convention 169. The ILO hopes that the current momentum towards the strengthened promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples will further encourage States to consider ratifying and implementing this Convention. The ILO stands ready to assist them in this regard.

Thank you.