



Making consultations with indigenous peoples work: how to overcome the lack of national capacities?

Parallel session convened by the International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Wednesday 16 November, 15:00-16:20
Palais des Nations**

Objectives

The ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provide that States should consult with indigenous peoples regarding measures which may affect them directly. However, building strong and effective national consultation mechanisms and procedures is challenging and in many countries they are still lacking. Against this reality, the parallel session aims to promote a better understanding of the perspectives and challenges of the different stakeholders, particularly on how the lack of national consultation mechanisms affects both companies as well as the rights and wellbeing of indigenous communities.

The session seeks to:

- Identify opportunities for addressing capacity gaps of the different stakeholders;
- Highlight the added value and relevance of ILO Convention No. 169 as a legally binding instrument specifically dedicated to indigenous peoples' rights;
- Highlight the responsibilities of states in the context of Convention No. 169;
- Provide insights into the experiences, practical challenges and concerns of the private sector in situations where national consultation mechanisms are lacking;
- Highlight existing practical guidance and consensus provided by ILO on this matter;
- Seek to highlight ways to involve and take on board the perspectives of indigenous peoples, including through strengthening their representative institutions.

Overall, the session aims at achieving a better understanding of the role of states in this context and also of leverage that businesses, employers' and workers' organizations as well as indigenous peoples' organizations can have in promoting national platforms to build effective consultations mechanisms.

Moderator: Manuela Tomei, Director, Conditions of Work and Equality Department, ILO

Introductory remarks: Pavel Sulyandziga, Chair of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights

Panellists:

1. *Geyner Blanco Acosta*, Adviser on Indigenous Affairs, Office of President, Government of Costa Rica
2. *Gloria Esperanza López Corea*, Red de Mujeres Indigenas y Afrohondureñas, Honduras
3. *Diana Chávez*, Director, UN Global Compact Regional Centre for Latin America
4. *Raquel Gonzalez*, Director, Geneva Office, International Trade Union Confederation
5. *Roberto Suarez*, Deputy, Secretary-General, International Organization of Employers