Overview of International Instruments relating to Indigenous Peoples

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SUBJECT(S): INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, INTERNATIONAL LABOUR

ORGANIZATION CONVENTIONS

Keyword(s): Indigenous Peoples, International Labour

ORGANIZATION CONVENTIONS, CONVENTION 107,

CONVENTION 169

The Article compares and contrasts two International Labour Organization Conventions, Convention 107 and Convention 169, which are the only international documents exclusively dealing with indigenous and tribal peoples. The Article points out that the main difference between the two instruments is that while the earlier instrument sees indigenous peoples as being integrated to the mainstream society, the latter instrument recognizes them as a common society that is disappearing because of modernization.

It then focuses on Convention 169, emphasizing the provisions that deal with the scope of the convention and who are entitled to its protection, the fundamental policies of consultation and participation, the rights to land ownership and natural resources, and displacement and settlement.