

While ILO Convention No. 169 does not directly address indigenous peoples' demand for recognition of their right to self-determination, it guarantees the right to control development within the traditional territories of indigenous peoples. This clearly forbids the granting of leases or permits to corporations for mining, logging, hydroelectric dams, or other activities in the territories of indigenous peoples, without the prior informed consent of those peoples.

Canada is arguably in compliance with ILO Convention No. 169 with respect to Indian Reserves, as well as other lands to which Aboriginal peoples' interests have been recognized by treaty or legislation. But the convention also applies to lands and resources that indigenous peoples continue to occupy or use, such as lands to which Aboriginal peoples assert claims based upon unextinguished Native title. Treaty talks in British Columbia have foundered on the province's refusal to satisfy Aboriginal peoples' demands that logging cease until their claims have been fully resolved--and litigation over the validity of individual forest licenses in disputed areas such as Haida Gwaii and the Kootenays.

Canada has ratified the other major international instrument that refers to the rights of indigenous communities, the U.N. *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD). Articles 8(j) and 10(c) of the CBD oblige state parties to protect and maintain indigenous peoples' traditional ecological knowledge and resource-management practices, and to protect indigenous peoples' sustainable customary uses of living resources--in the Canadian context, this refers to hunting, fishing, gathering, and other harvesting rights. Canada has not implemented these provisions of the CBD legislatively, nor is there any process in place to involve Aboriginal peoples in the drafting of appropriate legislation. Since nearly all Latin American governments have ratified the CBD and regard it favourably, Canada would benefit from assuming moral leadership and implementing the CBD fully at home.

Acting effectively and efficiently

In the 1970s, the hope was often expressed that a collapse of authoritarian regimes, democratization, and open markets would create a positive climate for human rights, poverty alleviation, and environmental sanity. For most indigenous peoples around the world, the reverse has been true. Transition to civilian rule in Latin America has led to greater foreign investment, accelerating the extraction of natural resources from regions where indigenous peoples live. Weak, tentative democracies have chosen to promote the growth of industry, employment and export earning at the sacrifice of ecosystems and vulnerable peoples.

Although Canada could, and arguably should take a larger role in international policy debates, such as the final readings of the draft United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *Proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Populations*, these exercises will have very little near-term concrete impact on the lives of indigenous peoples compared with Canadian direct investments in Latin American natural resources. Similarly, CIDA could and almost certainly should increase its level of financial and technical support for the development of Latin American indigenous organizations and the strengthening of North-South dialogue and cooperation among indigenous peoples of the Americas. In the foreseeable future, however, there is little likelihood of CIDA obtaining even one percent of the