

Human Rights Council – 33rd Regular Session

Joint Statement

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

20 September 2016

Mr President,

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Inclusive economic growth, including indigenous-driven economic development, is one of the most powerful instruments for reducing poverty and disadvantage.

Around the world, indigenous peoples are able to use their businesses and economic prosperity to lift themselves out of poverty, and to self-determine and advance their human rights priorities.

However, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognises that indigenous peoples, some of the most vulnerable people in the world, are still being excluded from participating fully in the economy.

We recognise that this exclusion is due to indigenous peoples facing barriers grounded in multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and disadvantage.

We call on UN member states to come together, through transformative individual and collective actions, to ensure that indigenous entrepreneurs can fully participate in the economy as well as contribute towards global economic policies and initiatives that benefit them.

To assist member states, we call on the Human Rights Council to support the Expert Mechanism to undertake a global study on challenges and good practices related to economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women and indigenous peoples with disabilities.

We would welcome the panel's views on addressing implicit cultural-bias, discrimination, exclusion and externalities that may occur due to failure by economic actors and policy-makers to include, incorporate and address the unique and particular interests of indigenous entrepreneurs.

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