

**Speaking Notes**

**For**

**Head of Delegation**

**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
15<sup>th</sup> Session**

*Item 11: Enhancing the participation of Indigenous peoples in the  
United Nations*

**In Person – XIX, Palais des Nations**

**Wednesday, July 6, 2022**

**Check Against Delivery**

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Thank you, Chair.

I would like to reiterate Canada's long-held position that a new status, separate from civil society, non-governmental organizations, and observers, must be developed to allow Indigenous Peoples to participate in all UN fora, including the Human Rights Council.

Canada remains steadfast in its commitment to move this discussion forward, and has recently committed funding to assist the Temporary Committee for the Indigenous Coordinating Body for Enhanced Participation in their advocacy on this issue. We urge others to support this important work and we look forward continuing this dialogue with the OHCHR, Indigenous peoples, and member states during the fall 2022 expert workshop, where we hope to achieve concrete movement on this issue.

Canada and the Temporary Committee for the Indigenous Coordinating Body co-hosted two regional consultations in the margins of the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Permanent Forum. The sessions – one focused on the North American region and one on

the Arctic – allowed for open, strategic discussion on how to ensure progress is made.

During these consultations, concerns were expressed about increased Member State control over Indigenous membership in United Nations bodies dedicated to Indigenous Peoples; and the limited presence of Indigenous Peoples in negotiation spaces.

Canada is dedicated to achieving progress on the issue of Enhanced Participation at the United Nations, and have also taken steps to ensure that our domestic processes are guided by the principle of participation. One example of action is the development of a working group of Indigenous representatives, non-governmental organizations, and government officials on resolution negotiations and enhanced participation. Through the collaboration of this working group we strive to ensure that Canada's positions in UN negotiations are guided by the input of Indigenous peoples. We also seek to include the working group's input not only on the Human Rights Council and General Assembly resolutions on the rights of Indigenous peoples, but throughout UN negotiation spaces. United Nations resolutions

and bodies do not need to have the word “Indigenous” in them to be relevant to Indigenous peoples.

As Chief Wilton Littlechild noted today in a side event, Indigenous peoples have not come to the United Nations to create problems, but to create solutions.

Meegwetch. Thank you. Merci.