

**CANZ Statement for intersessional interactive dialogue on ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of the Human Rights Council on issues affecting them (pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 39/13)**

Thank you, Chair.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand welcome this dialogue of the Human Rights Council on ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions.

Given the lack of recognition of Indigenous peoples' rights in many countries, the Council has an opportunity to show leadership on this issue.

Principles of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* include the rights to self-determination, to be recognized as distinct peoples, to be free from discrimination, and the right to take part in decisions affecting their rights.

It is so important for the Human Rights Council and the broader UN family to take concrete steps to reflect in their own

mechanisms the Declaration and include Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions.

The UN bodies that focus on Indigenous peoples — the UN Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism — are invaluable, but if the UN is to be relevant to all people, the independent and unique voices of Indigenous peoples' should be heard throughout the UN system.

We must continue to facilitate the participation of Indigenous peoples in a much wider range of forums.

The rules of procedure that apply to today's HRC session demonstrate the need for an expanded, inclusive process — one that provides a mechanism or procedure for Indigenous peoples' accreditation.

Including Indigenous peoples in the work of Council will strengthen the Council's ability to promote and protect human

rights around the global and to address situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand remain steadfast in our commitment to move this discussion forward.

Thank you, Chair.

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