



UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

20th Session

Friday, April 23, 2021

**Speaker: National Chief Perry Bellegarde,
Assembly of First Nations**

**Agenda Item 6: Thematic dialogues: Follow up to the outcome document of the World
Conference on Indigenous Peoples**



Forum members and all delegations:

In follow up to the Outcome Document of the World Conference, I am pleased to share examples of UN Declaration implementation happening in Canada. Bill C-15, legislation to implement the Declaration is currently in the Parliamentary process. We have a short period of time to ensure it becomes law.

C-15 affirms that the UN Declaration has legal effect in Canada and creates collaborative processes for implementation, including through the development, with Indigenous peoples, of a national action plan. C-15 affirms our inherent right of self-determination – a right of all peoples, including Indigenous peoples, under international law.

C-15 will complement recently enacted federal laws including Indigenous languages and child welfare legislation, that include reference to the Declaration; in addition to ground-breaking provincial implementation legislation in British Columbia.

While all member states committed to these actions at the World Conference, we know this has been challenging to realize. We believe the work we have accomplished may be useful to others.

Recommendations:

1. That the Forum once again remind and encourage all states to work with Indigenous peoples and implement commitments made in the Outcome Document of the World Conference, including the development of legislation and national action plans to implement the Declaration
2. That the Forum undertake a study on existing examples of implementation legislation and national action plans, including the work accomplished in Canada – such a study will have benefits globally for Indigenous peoples and states.

I am submitting in writing documents from the Assembly of First Nations and would be pleased to engage in substantive dialogue related to our work.