

**Human Rights Council  
Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
Tenth session  
10-14 July 2017**

**Intervention on Item 3: New mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:  
activities and methods of work**

Thank you for this presentation on the new mandate and the draft methods of work.

Canada supports meaningful participation by Indigenous peoples in the UN process. We have been a strong supporter of UN mechanisms devoted to Indigenous issues, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Government of Canada was pleased earlier this year to facilitate a meeting between Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism during their pre-session meetings in the National Capital Region. Our engagement with delegates to these meetings demonstrated to Canadian officials the commitment and diversity of expertise these individuals from different regions of the world bring to the EMPRIIP.

Canada welcomes this discussion with representatives of States of Indigenous peoples and national human rights institutions on the implementation of the new mandate.

We hope that the new mandate will allow the Expert Mechanism to be more independent, representative, focused and efficient, while remaining complementary to the other Indigenous-specific UN mechanisms, with the aim of avoiding duplication.

Canada further encourages strengthening and collaboration with other bodies so that member states can collectively achieve the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples "through the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the rights of Indigenous peoples."

In this context, we envisage that dialogue, interaction and coordination with the chairs of other specialized bodies be increased in order to promote the objectives and effective realization of the Declaration.

Finally, the establishment of new working methods presents an opportunity to ensure gender balance and regional balance in the work of the Expert Mechanism. In forums such as this, the plain truth is that women's voices are not heard often enough. The only way to correct this is by working to choose to invite women to participate in all aspects of the Expert Mechanism's work.