

United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations  
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Agenda Item 6: Standard Setting Activities

Statement by Mr. Darrell Brown  
Metis Nation of Canada  
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**Centre For Indigenous Environmental Resources**

Thank you Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to address the distinguished Working Group on Indigenous Populations. With respect to standard settings for Indigenous Peoples, specifically in protecting Mother Earth and our environment, I would like to inform the group of The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources. The Centre is dedicated to the protection, preservation and renewal of Mother Earth.

This non profit national organization is headquartered in Winnipeg, Canada and was created in 1994 for the express purpose of establishing and implementing environmental capacity-building initiatives for First Nations. The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources is committed to the development of the education, research and technical resources needed for Indigenous Communities to acquire a greater ability to meet and deal with the environmental issues and initiatives that we face. The unique Indigenous rights, needs, goals and perspectives are included and addressed in all capacity building. The centre is committed to creating and strengthening partnerships with other Indigenous, environmental and concerned organizations.

The centre has three primary goals. First, to build capacity in our communities by training, providing technical expertise and advice particularly in the environmental assessment fields. Communities may access the centre as an education tool or use its expertise on a case by case basis locally, nationally or internationally. Secondly, to initiate, promote and increase Indigenous input in all environmental issues that affect their lands. This is of critical importance to the long term health of our communities. Development of our participation in environmental reform is necessary for meaningful change. Thirdly, to develop and enhance the links between all First Nations in Canada and Indigenous peoples throughout the world and to ensure our significant contribution in international environmental matters. As Indigenous peoples, we share common ground that links us in a profound way.

The centre has integrated indigenous knowledge into the contemporary environmental processes such as environmental and economic impact assessments, ecosystem and biodiversity monitoring and the development and use of sustainable development indicators. Traditional knowledge and western knowledge have been combined to attain a balance that works for First Nation communities.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources should serve as a model for Indigenous People to acquire, record, interpret, monitor and problem solve their environmental concerns. This will facilitate Indigenous Peoples to participate in the ongoing process of control and protection of our lands and resources. Thank you for your time.

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