

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

**Intervention on Item 5: Interactive dialogue with national human rights institutions, regional human rights institutions and similar mechanisms**

Thank you very much for your perspectives on strengthened engagement between the EMRIP and national and regional human rights institutions and similar mechanisms.

Canada welcomes this opportunity to recognize the important role of national human rights institutions, regional human rights and similar mechanisms and the work that they do to promote and protect the rights of Indigenous peoples.

These institutions play an important and legitimate role, monitoring and reporting on human rights situations and providing valuable information to assist governments and international bodies on how best to respond to issues affecting Indigenous peoples throughout the world.

Independent tribunals and commissions, further play an important role in holding governments accountable for their human rights performances. Independent of state bodies, they facilitate dialogue and can provide an alternate forum to resolve human rights violations outside the traditional court system.

In Canada, the Canadian Human Rights Commission has a National Aboriginal Initiative to raise awareness of human rights in an Aboriginal context, and provides First Nations governments with information on their responsibilities under the Canadian Human Rights Act.

The Canadian Human Rights Commission holds government accountable through a variety of mechanisms including: Reports to Parliament and Shadow Reports to UN bodies.

In recent years, the Commission has invested significant resources to try to realize equality of services on reserve for Aboriginal peoples. An example of this is the litigation of the complaint filed by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations. This complaint was filed against the Government of Canada on the basis of race and national or ethnic origin alleging that the child welfare program on reserve discriminates against First Nations children and their families. The Commission worked with the complainants to lead evidence at this hearing and were ultimately successful. The Commission remains involved in this litigation and continues to attempt to facilitate discussions to ensure a positive resolution for the impacted children and their families and a productive working relationship between the parties.

We fully support ongoing collaboration with the Expert Mechanism as it moves forward with its new mandate. Canada believes that collaboration, both formal and informal, between member states and independent experts and institutions will allow us to collectively move forward to achieving the goals of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Question: Are there particular human rights issues or initiatives on which EMRIP and national human rights institutions could collaborate

**5. Interactive dialogue with national human rights institutions, regional human rights institutions and similar mechanisms**

When amending its mandate, the Human Rights Council encouraged the Expert Mechanism to enhance its engagement with national human rights institutions (see Council resolution 33/25, para. 11). The Expert Mechanism has therefore decided to devote part of its tenth session to an interactive dialogue with national and regional human rights institutions in order to examine the role that those institutions can play in achieving the ends of the Declaration and to explore how they can best collaborate with the Expert Mechanism under its new mandate.