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Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations
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Mission permanente du Canada
auprès des Nations Unies
et de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce

**10th SESSION OF THE EMRIP
AGENDA ITEM 6: UNDRIP
INTERVENTION ON UNDRIP**

3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Wednesday July 12, 2017

Mister Chair, Expert Members,

This year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Canada would like to take this opportunity to underline the steps already taken by the federal government to implement the Declaration, as well as to note the journey still left ahead.

Two years ago, Canada announced support without qualification of the Declaration. In line with the Declaration, and in response to recommendations from United Nations Treaty Bodies and mechanisms, Canada has already begun addressing important issues.

Article 22 of the Declaration calls to attention the particular consideration that should be paid to the rights of women, youth, and children. In 2015, the Government of Canada launched a national inquiry to report on the systematic causes behind the violence Indigenous women and girls experience at a higher rate.

This came after reports by United Nations treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, recommended conducting a national inquiry on the issue.

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Article 18 of the Declaration underlines the rights of Indigenous peoples to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights. In December 2016, the Prime Minister committed to bi-lateral mechanisms with Canada's National Indigenous Leaders as a way to co-develop policy in the spirit of respect and partnership.

The spirit of partnership is important to Canada and was mentioned by several of its peers during Canada's second Universal Periodic Review.

However, Canada has just begun on its path to implementation.

Earlier this year, the Prime Minister announced a Working Group of Ministers responsible for the review of laws and policies related to Indigenous peoples. The Working group will help ensure that the Crown is adhering to international human rights standards, including the Declaration.

The Rights of Indigenous Peoples are upheld in part thanks to the United Nations Mechanisms which oversee them. This includes the Expert Mechanism. As the Government of Canada implements the Declaration, it will continue to look forward to receiving useful and informed advice from the Expert Mechanism for its application in the Canadian context.

Merci. Thank you. Migwiich. Kuyanamik. Marsi.

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