

CANADA - STATEMENT

Item 12: Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Wednesday, May 1, 2019
Conference Room 4 | United Nations Secretariat, New York

Thank you, Chair.

The Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples is a commitment to action.

To that end, Canada is supporting Private Member's Bill C-262, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, which is currently before Canada's Parliament. This draft legislation calls for Canada to develop and implement a National Action Plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, and for Canada to take measures necessary to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with the Declaration.

Just three weeks ago, Canada appointed the first Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise to strengthen responsible business conduct abroad. The Ombudsperson will promote the implementation of internationally-endorsed human rights guidelines, advise Canadian companies on best practices, and review allegations of human rights abuses arising from Canadian company operations abroad in the mining, oil and gas and garment sectors.

The International Year of Indigenous Languages reminds us of the importance of Indigenous languages and Canada agrees with Indigenous representatives who have called for Indigenous languages to be incorporated into the System Wide Action Plan.

Lastly, with respect to the issues of Enhanced Indigenous Participation, Canada believes there are opportunities that can be found to support the participation of Indigenous peoples throughout the UN system and at the highest levels in this organization. We are interested in learning more about the proposal of a special envoy on Indigenous issues, and the proposal made by Ecuador for a potential meeting to further explore the issue of Enhanced Indigenous Participation prior to the 75th Session of the General Assembly. Canada supports the suggestion of an Expert Group Meeting to be held on this issue and also looks forward to working with all member states to ensure that the Permanent Forum is adequately resourced to carry forward this important work.

Thank you.