

EMRIP 11 – 9-13 July 2018
Item 7 – Canada's intervention
UN Declaration: good practices and lessons learned
Wednesday 11 July, 15h00-18h00 (dialogue), Thursday 12 July, 10h00-11h00

Chair, Expert Members, Indigenous representatives,

Canada thanks the Expert Mechanism for the opportunity to participate in this dialogue.

The implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples requires transformative change in states' relationships with Indigenous peoples.

While we recognize that there is a great diversity of country contexts and Indigenous realities, we also share many challenges and opportunities.

Canada is continuing to learn lessons and to develop good practices in partnership with Indigenous peoples.

In the last year, Canada has taken concrete steps in this direction.

In July 2017, the Government of Canada established the *Principles Respecting Canada's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples*.

These Principles reflect a commitment to good faith, the rule of law, democracy, equality, non-discrimination, and respect for human rights.

The Principles are guided by the UN Declaration and make specific reference to Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination, including the inherent right of self-government.

They also recognize that meaningful engagement with Indigenous peoples aims to secure their free, prior, and informed consent when Canada proposes to take actions which impact them and their rights, including their lands, territories and resources.

In November 2017, the Government announced that it will support a private member's bill known as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. This Bill, which is currently before Canada's Parliament, calls for the government of Canada to take all measures necessary, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with the Declaration.

The Bill also calls for the development of a national action plan and reporting mechanisms to ensure its implementation.

In February of this, the Government of Canada introduced changes to the federal environmental and regulatory process.

The proposed new environmental impact assessment process provides for the engagement of Indigenous peoples early in the planning phase of any natural resource project to which the legislation will apply.

Canada has also launched a national engagement process to develop a Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework.

While these examples are specific to Canada, the recognition and implementation of Indigenous rights and the work to build processes and approaches aimed at securing consent can be seen as good practices.

Would the Expert Mechanism see value in putting together a database of lessons learned and good practices at the country level and among Indigenous peoples that could inform efforts to implement the UN Declaration?

Merci. Thank you. Migwiich. Kuyanamik. Marsi.