

Item 5: Human rights: dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and other special rapporteurs

Canada would like to take this occasion to thank Dr. Stavenhagen for being here today to present his final report to the Permanent Forum in his role as UN Special Rapporteur. Canada was happy to welcome Dr. Stavenhagen to Canada during his official visit in 2004. We have also appreciated the opportunities for further dialogue with the Special Rapporteur during his unofficial visits and through the various thematic seminars organized throughout ~~this~~ ^{his} tenure.

Canada remains committed to effective mechanisms within the UN system that address the rights of Indigenous peoples. Indeed, Canada has consistently shown its support for the important role of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People. That is why Canada was happy to have co-sponsored the resolution at the Human Rights Council that extended the mandate of this special procedure. We were also proud to have co-sponsored the resolution that established a new Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We commend Dr. Stavenhagen for his efforts as mandate holder since June 2001. It is clear that Dr. Stavenhagen enjoys the greatest respect from Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Anaya on his appointment as Special Rapporteur. Professor Anaya brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience on indigenous issues. Canada looks forward to ~~the~~ continuing an open and constructive dialogue with Professor Anaya as he assumes this important mandate.

Thank you.