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CANADA

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Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Disaster Risk Reduction

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Chair,

As outlined in the Expert Mechanism's annual thematic study and reinforced during today's panel, natural disasters pose unique and significant challenges for Indigenous peoples. Strengthening the resilience of communities to disasters continues to be a priority for Canada at home and abroad. Our Government is taking a comprehensive and collaborative approach to disaster risk reduction, partnering with Indigenous peoples, provinces, territories and other stakeholders to build safer communities and reduce risks and vulnerabilities before disasters occur. This collaboration with Indigenous peoples was highlighted as a best practice in the 2014 report on the Seventh Session of the EMRIP.

For example, the Government has improved access to emergency funding for First Nations and is working with provincial and territorial governments to update or put in place agreements related to the delivery of emergency management services to First Nations. Canada has also set aside \$200 million over five years for a National Disaster Mitigation Program to support investments to reduce disaster risks and costs for Canadians.

In addition, Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, established further to 2005 Hyogo Framework for Action, brings together stakeholders to develop and promote community resilience strategies and tools tailored to meet the needs of all Canadian communities, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. As the world comes together to agree on the

successor framework to Hyogo in Japan next March, Canada will call for and contribute to a multi-stakeholder approach that allows for meaningful engagement by Indigenous peoples.

Canada is convinced of the benefits of adopting an inclusive and participatory and will continue to work with all stakeholders, including Indigenous peoples, to achieve an agreement that builds resilience to natural and non-natural disasters in nations and communities.

Could the panel share what are some of the best mechanisms it has observed in the development of inclusive and participatory approaches?