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Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations
and the World Trade Organization



Mission permanente du Canada
auprès des Nations Unies
et de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce

HRC48

Items 3 & 5 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous peoples

September 27 – 28, 2021

Canada thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

We recognize that Indigenous peoples are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and that equitable and comprehensive planning, implementation, and recovery requires inclusive partnership with Indigenous leadership and community partners.

Ensuring the meaningful participation of Indigenous peoples in COVID-19 recovery begins with addressing our own human rights situation. We acknowledged this, and the work that remains to be done in order to advance reconciliation, during the last session of this Council.

We welcome the overarching recommendation in the report for States to fulfil their obligations to Indigenous peoples in accordance with the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* during the COVID-19 recovery phase. On June 21 of this year, Canada adopted legislation that provides a framework for implementation of the *Declaration*.

We will also continue to work closely with Indigenous peoples in order to ensure a culturally appropriate recovery plan. As detailed in our contribution to the Special Rapporteur's report, the Government of Canada has been working closely with Indigenous peoples in its COVID-19 response, including ensuring that Indigenous representative organizations have the necessary resources to lead response efforts for their respective citizens.

Mister Special Rapporteur, how can UN bodies promote the enhanced participation of Indigenous peoples to ensure inclusive planning and response at the global level, and help prevent and mitigate future pandemics?