

# **United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

## **20<sup>th</sup> Session**

### **Plenary Session**

#### **Joint Statement**

***Item 6: Follow up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the Study on the theme “Representative institutions and models of self-governance of indigenous peoples in Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia: ways of enhanced participation.”***

**To be delivered by the Hon. Carolyn Bennett,  
Canada’s Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations  
on behalf of Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark together with  
Greenland, Estonia, Finland, Guatemala, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway,  
Paraguay, Peru, and the United States.**

**Via Interpretation**

**April 23, 2021**

Thank you Madam Chair,

I have the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of Australia, Bolivia, Colombia, Denmark together with Greenland, Estonia, Finland, Guatemala, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, the United States and my own country Canada.

In line with the *Outcome Document of the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples*, we strongly believe that Indigenous peoples should be able to participate – and be heard – in decisions that affect them at all levels including at the United Nations.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples refers to the rights to self-determination, to be recognized as distinct peoples, to be free from discrimination, and to take part in decisions affecting their rights.

To ensure that the UN is relevant to all people, the independent and unique voices of Indigenous peoples should be heard throughout the UN system.

It is vitally important for the broader UN family to take concrete steps to reflect in their own mechanisms the Declaration and include Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions.

In this regard, we welcome the decision in the 75<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Resolution on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to continue the consideration of possible measures to enhance the participation of Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant UN meetings on issues affecting them.

Including Indigenous peoples in the work of the UN will strengthen the international community's ability to build an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future with Indigenous peoples around the globe.

Our countries remain steadfast in our commitment to move this discussion forward, and welcome the Permanent Forum's advice on reconciling the right to self-determination with the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations.

Thank you