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CHIPPEWAS OF THE THAMES FIRST NATION



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Eighth Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
20 to 24 July 2015
Geneva – United Nations Palais des Nations

Item 8: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Statement delivered by Jesse McCormick on behalf of the Deshkaan Ziibing Anishinaabeg, also known as Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.

Chippewas of the Thames First Nation fully supports paragraph 7 of the Outcome Document (A/RES/69/2). It states:

7. We commit ourselves to taking, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, appropriate measures at the national level, including legislative, policy and administrative measures, to achieve the ends of the Declaration and to promote awareness of it among all sectors of society, including members of legislatures, the judiciary and the civil service.

We wish to inform the Expert Mechanism that a Bill was recently presented to the Parliament of Canada that would further the objectives set out in paragraph 7. Bill C-641- An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was defeated by majority vote on May 6, 2015 and did not pass into law. The failure of the Government of Canada to pursue the implementation of the Declaration despite the opportunity presented in Bill C-641 demonstrates that Canada has failed to take the steps necessary to promote the Declaration.

We also note that Canada has also failed to provide a response to the questionnaire developed by the Expert Mechanism to seek the views of States on best practices regarding possible appropriate measures and implementation strategies to attain the goals of the Declaration.

Chippewas of the Thames First Nation requests that the Expert Mechanism emphasize the important role that Indigenous Peoples play in the implementation of the Declaration in instances where State governments have failed to actively pursue measures to implement the Declaration. We recommend that the Expert Mechanism, in concert with the Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples work to develop a model framework for the implementation of the Declaration by Indigenous Peoples within their territories.



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Example: The goal of the model would be to answer the question of how do we know when we have achieved success in implementing the UNDRIP. This requires using the Declaration and the Post-2015 Development Agenda as the normative framework and establishing levels and corresponding outcomes to track progress. The three mechanisms could develop a compilation of their recommendations and reports aimed at providing progress indicators. The levels within the model could be:

- I) an educational basis within the territory so every citizen begins to speak in the language of the Declaration;
- II) review and overhaul of governance instruments to ensure that all policies and/or laws reflect the language of the UNDRIP;
- III) continued oversight and revamping as the community evolves into an indigenous human rights community.