

**Canadian National Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous peoples
13th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Africa and North America Regional Session - Monday 30 November, 2020**

COVID-19 has greatly exacerbated the inequality and marginalization experienced by Indigenous Peoples, impacting their health, safety, food security, education, well-being and livelihoods.

We thank you, Madam Chair, for advancing the good work being done by the Expert Mechanism during unprecedented times and commend you and your colleagues for convening the session in a format that prioritizes Indigenous participation.

Être à l'écoute des besoins des peuples autochtones et travailler en collaboration avec eux sont de grandes priorités pour le Canada.

Au Canada, les communautés inuites, métisses et des Premières Nations dirigent l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre d'une réponse très efficace pour lutter contre la COVID-19, mettant à contribution la sagesse imprégnée dans les modes de pensée et les façons de faire traditionnelles.

To that end, Canada has increased funding to support Indigenous communities to make their own decisions about where and what critical supports are needed.

Canada supports and respects the decisions made by Indigenous communities to restrict access to their communities during the pandemic.

Durant la pandémie, une attention particulière doit être accordée aux défis liés à la violence familiale et à la santé mentale. Le Canada a accéléré les travaux portant sur le Plan d'action national en réponse à l'Enquête nationale sur les femmes et les filles autochtones disparues et assassinées, lesquels visent à mettre fin à la violence faite aux femmes, aux filles et aux personnes bispirituelles et LGBTQI autochtones.

We are fully committed to working with Indigenous communities as we respond to short-term challenges posed by COVID-19 and develop long-term solutions that are grounded in their culture, language, and traditional knowledge. And despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, we are working with Indigenous partners to ensure that dialogue on self-determination can continue virtually where appropriate.

Again, I would like to thank the Chair and the members of the Expert Mechanism for convening this virtual meeting, and I look forward to further dialogue on the effects and international responses to COVID-19 so that we can learn from each other's experience in how to ensure that our responses include the meaningful engagement and involvement of Indigenous Peoples.

Thank you.