

**Speaking Notes**

**For**

**Head of Delegation**

**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
15<sup>th</sup> Session**

*Item 7: International Decade of Indigenous Languages*

**In Person – XIX, Palais des Nations  
Monday, July 4, 2022**

**Check Against Delivery**

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Thank you, Chair.

Canada welcomes the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. Indigenous languages are fundamental to Indigenous identities, cultures, spirituality, and self-determination. They tell stories, preserve cultures and traditions, and hold generations of families and communities together. Throughout the Decade, Canada will recognize, raise awareness of, and celebrate the richness of Indigenous languages.

Canada's participation in the Decade is aligned with our commitment to fully implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We are encouraged that Canada and representatives of First Nations, Inuit and Métis are represented in the UNESCO-led Global Task Force, which governs the Decade of Indigenous Languages and provides guidance on the preparation, implementing and monitoring of the Global Action Plan for the Decade.

Canada is working with Indigenous partners to develop a National Action Plan for the Decade to better address the urgent need raised by Indigenous peoples to revitalize and promote Indigenous languages, while taking into account different priorities based on distinctions between First Nations, Inuit and Métis as well as sociocultural regions.

Canada is committed to working collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples to further advance the implementation of the *Indigenous Languages Act*, which was passed in 2019. Since then, Canada has made historic investments to implement the Act, including supporting the ongoing community-based efforts of Indigenous Peoples to reclaim, revitalize, maintain, and strengthen Indigenous languages across the country.

It is critical that governments support the efforts of Indigenous Peoples to revitalize their languages and build the next generation of speakers of Indigenous languages.

Meegwetch. Thank you. Merci.

