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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

HRC39
Adoption of the outcome of Canada's Third cycle Universal Periodic Review
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Introduction

Mr. President,

Canada is pleased to present its response to the recommendations received as part of its third Universal Periodic Review. Canada received 275 recommendations, on several important issues, when we appeared before the UPR Working Group in May of this year.

I would like to begin by thanking all the states that participated in our review. The constructive engagement that was demonstrated was indispensable to us and exemplifies how states can hold each other to account for their respective human rights records.

I would also like to thank civil society and Indigenous organizations for their valuable contributions to this process.

Canada's UPR

Mr. President,

Canada views the UPR process as an important tool among UN mechanisms to promote and protect human rights around the world. The UPR's regular review of all UN Member States on an equal footing contributes to the universality and impartiality of the UN human rights system and leads to concrete improvements in the respect for human rights on the ground.

A key principle to Canada's participation in this process is that human rights must start at home.

We acknowledge that challenges remain for Canada in many areas. The recommendations we received from other countries during our third Universal Periodic Review will inform our decisions on how to address these challenges.

As enshrined in our constitution, some these issues fall under federal jurisdiction and provincial or territorial jurisdiction and in some cases they are a shared responsibility between governments in Canada.

This is important to note because all the UPR recommendations required discussions both within and between federal, provincial and territorial governments to prepare Canada's response and consider implementation moving forward

Following Canada's UPR appearance, we undertook a multi-pronged approach to engagement with civil society and Indigenous Peoples, including cross-country engagement sessions co-hosted by civil society organizations, which provided an opportunity for civil society representatives and Indigenous Peoples to identify priority recommendations and practical suggestions for implementation. We also solicited written views on the recommendations, including through the use of an online engagement tool. These deliberations are of fundamental importance to the way in which Canada promotes and protects human rights.

I am here to report that, after careful consideration, Canada "Accepts" 208 of the recommendations we received, either in full or in part.

Canada accepts those recommendations that federal, provincial and territorial governments are implementing through existing or planned legislative or administrative measures.

Recommendations that are "Noted" are those that call for specific actions that are not presently under consideration.

International human rights instruments

At our appearance in May, a number of countries called on Canada to adhere to international instruments to which we are not yet a party.

We believe that adherence to human rights instruments is an important way to advance the protection of human rights domestically and to demonstrate our global commitment to human rights.

Canada has accepted recommendations that call for us to consider ratification of three treaties. This is consistent with the commitment made in December 2017 by governments in Canada to pursue their consideration of Canada's possible accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Convention on Enforced Disappearances.

We recognize that strengthening our domestic framework for implementation of international human rights will further our collective objective of enhancing respect for human rights. This is in line with our voluntary commitment to develop a protocol for follow-up to recommendations from UN human rights bodies and a related engagement strategy with civil society and Indigenous representatives. Work on these two mechanisms is progressing.

Indigenous Peoples

A large number of the recommendations we received relate to Canada's relationship with Indigenous Peoples, and the protection of their rights. This was also identified as a priority issue by Indigenous representatives and domestic stakeholders through written submissions and during the engagement sessions held across Canada since our appearance.

I am pleased to announce that Canada accepts many of these recommendations, which reflects the ongoing commitments and activities of governments in Canada.

Governments across Canada are taking measures aimed at addressing the gaps in services for Indigenous peoples in the areas of culture, education, health, standard of living, housing and access to justice. These efforts are directly related to many of the recommendations that Canada is today accepting.

The Government of Canada has committed to fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to develop, in full partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, a Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework as the foundation for all relations between the Government and Indigenous peoples. The Government of Canada is working hard to deliver on the Prime Minister's intention to introduce the Framework in 2018 and implement by October 2019.

The Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination discussions with First Nations, Inuit and Métis groups across the country are informing the reform of Canada's laws, policies and practices to support recognition of a rights-based approach. These mechanisms support Indigenous communities in achieving self-determination on their own terms.

Provincial and territorial governments are also implementing important measures.

For example, Manitoba's *Aboriginal Languages Recognition Act* recognizes the seven Aboriginal languages spoken and used in Manitoba. Special language credit options

include Aboriginal languages. These courses are available in some Manitoba public schools.

Pauvreté, itinérance et sécurité alimentaire

Le Canada accepte également les recommandations en accord avec les mesures existantes et à venir pour réduire la pauvreté, améliorer le revenu individuel et familial et répondre aux besoins de logement dans le but de permettre à tous les Canadiens d'avoir une bonne qualité de vie.

Le 21 août, le gouvernement du Canada a lancé sa Stratégie de réduction de la pauvreté, qui prévoit une réduction du taux de pauvreté de 50 % des niveaux de 2015 d'ici 2030 et l'établissement d'un seuil de pauvreté officiel. La Stratégie complémente les stratégies de réduction de la pauvreté des gouvernements provinciaux et territoriaux, ce qui démontre la réalisation de progrès dans la réduction de la pauvreté à travers le pays.

Le gouvernement travaille également à la mise en place d'un Conseil consultatif national sur la pauvreté pour conseiller le gouvernement sur la réduction de la pauvreté et pour présenter des rapports publics sur les progrès.

Le 11 juin, le gouvernement du Canada a annoncé sa *Stratégie de lutte contre l'itinérance*, qui vise à réduire de 50 % l'itinérance chronique. En outre, grâce à des initiatives clés dans le cadre de la Stratégie nationale sur le logement, le Canada prend des mesures qui contribuent à la réalisation progressive des droits de tous les Canadiens à l'accès à un logement adéquat.

Le gouvernement du Canada collabore avec la société civile, l'industrie et les organismes autochtones pour élaborer une *politique alimentaire pour le Canada*. La politique déterminera une vision à long terme pour le système alimentaire canadien dont la sécurité alimentaire sera l'un des thèmes principaux.

Les nombreuses mesures des gouvernements provinciaux et territoriaux viennent compléter les mesures fédérales.

Le Plan d'action interministériel en itinérance 2015-2020 du Québec énumère 31 actions et 111 moyens concrets pour prévenir et réduire l'itinérance dont des mesures spécifiques sont prévues pour prévenir le passage à la rue des personnes

évincées de leur logement et pour favoriser l'intégration et le maintien en logement des personnes en situation d'itinérance.

La violence envers les femmes et les enfants

La promotion de l'égalité entre les sexes est une priorité pour le gouvernement du Canada et nous continuons de nous attaquer aux obstacles systémiques à l'égalité pour les femmes et les filles afin d'assurer leur pleine participation à la vie économique, sociale et démocratique du Canada.

Nous acceptons la majorité des recommandations reçues qui appellent le redoublement des efforts à l'égard de la violence faite aux femmes et aux enfants.

Les gouvernements canadiens ont adopté une approche multisectorielle à plusieurs facettes pour lutter contre la violence fondée sur le sexe. Cela comprend le dépôt de lois, la mise en œuvre de stratégies visant à prévenir et à contrer la violence fondée sur le sexe, l'établissement de services de soutien adéquats pour les survivants et la promotion des campagnes de sensibilisation. Voici des exemples :

La Stratégie du Canada pour prévenir et contrer la violence fondée sur le sexe repose sur trois piliers : prévention, soutien des survivants et de leur famille et promotion de la réactivité des systèmes juridique et judiciaire. Cette stratégie s'appuie sur les efforts déjà déployés à l'échelle du pays et vient les compléter.

Par exemple, le 22 mai 2018, le gouvernement du Canada a présenté une nouvelle loi visant à modifier les lois fédérales canadiennes relatives à la famille, y compris des mesures de lutte contre la violence familiale.

Les immigrants, les réfugiés, les demandeurs d'asile et les travailleurs migrants

L'approche canadienne d'intégration des immigrants a été établie en se fondant sur le principe d'une société accueillante et inclusive; une société qui favorise la diversité, la citoyenneté active et un engagement envers le multiculturalisme.

Un certain nombre de cadres stratégiques législatifs fédéraux, provinciaux et territoriaux ont été mis en place pour soutenir cette vision.

Des acteurs gouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux jouent un rôle clé dans le soutien de ces cadres. Chaque année, le gouvernement du Canada finance des programmes en matière d'établissement qui touchent un éventail d'acteurs du secteur

communautaire et sans but lucratif ainsi que le secteur privé pour la prestation de services aux nouveaux arrivants.

Un Groupe consultatif de la jeunesse verra le jour en 2018. Il s'agira d'une tribune permanente pour la communication plus directe entre les jeunes et les décideurs sur un vaste éventail de questions relatives à l'immigration, notamment l'établissement et l'intégration, la citoyenneté, les affaires des réfugiés et les questions internationales.

En ce qui concerne les travailleurs étrangers, à compter de 2018-2019, le gouvernement du Canada investira de manière significative pour s'assurer que les droits des travailleurs étrangers temporaires sont protégés et respectés dans le cadre d'un régime de conformité strict.

Des mesures ont aussi été prises sur la détention liée à l'immigration. En juillet, le gouvernement du Canada a annoncé la mise en place de solutions de rechange élargies au programme de détention à l'intérieur du Cadre national en matière de détention liée à l'immigration.

Racism and non-discrimination

Ongoing efforts by governments to combat and eliminate all forms of discrimination and inequality faced by vulnerable groups and to raise awareness of xenophobic and race-based discrimination enables acceptance of related recommendations.

For the government of Canada, key priorities include cross-country engagement, to assess the barriers faced by minority groups in Canada, and the development of a new federal anti-racism strategy to combat discrimination and racism.

Federal measures are complemented by the numerous actions of provincial and territorial governments.

Nova Scotia is also working to eliminate discrimination with its commitment to the Nova Scotia Home for Coloured Children Restorative Inquiry and through enhanced treaty education in the Provincial School Code of Conduct. In 2018, this province provided funding to the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs to strengthen the office and address systemic racism across government and organizations.

Public safety and law enforcement

Canada accepts the recommendations that we received addressing racial and religious profiling, discrimination in the criminal justice system, use of force by law enforcement

and trafficking in light of the numerous ongoing or planned measures of federal, provincial and territorial governments.

For example, the national police force has taken many measures to effectively ensure that members and employees carry out their day-to-day work in a bias-free, respectful and inclusive manner. Cultural awareness is interwoven with the concepts of human rights, discrimination, ethics, bias-awareness and bias-free policing training for all employees.

Mr. President,

I would like to turn the floor at this point to Member States and civil society before my closing remarks.

Closing

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me underscore once more that Governments across Canada are committed to adopting and implementing measures to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights, and share a common goal of addressing challenges that impact the lives of all people in Canada through a strong framework of laws, programs, policies and institutions.

As I have described, work is already underway in Canada to implement the new commitments that Canada has taken on through the UPR process.

With these efforts in mind, Canada will consider providing an update on progress to the international community before Canada's fourth UPR.

Ultimately, Canada looks forward to returning for its next appearance under the fourth cycle of the UPR to report on the progress we have made on the recommendations that we have accepted.

I'd like to thank once more the Member States, civil society and Indigenous representatives for their active and constructive engagement in Canada's UPR.

We have great confidence that the constructive engagement of the Human Rights Council in this process will allow us to return with tangible and concrete improvements in the situation of human rights in Canada.

