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to the United Nations  
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U N I T E D N A T I O N S  
WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS  
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GENEVA

STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER DELEGATION OF CANADA  
DELIVERED BY

FRED CARON

July 25, 1994

Madam Chairperson,

Again the Canadian observer delegation would like to congratulate you on your re-election as Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

Canada has had the pleasure of participating in the activities of the Working Group and of contributing to its deliberations almost since the beginning. During this time Canada has accorded the Working Group our most serious consideration of the issues before it.

Madam Chairperson, at this time I would like to emphasize that Canada continues to support the efforts of the United Nations to draft an instrument addressing the rights of indigenous people. We realize full well the need for such a document. We support the objectives of most provisions in the current draft, and the specific wording of many. Over the years we have expressed concerns with certain provisions of the draft declaration. These concerns have not been put forward as obstacles. They have been expressed for the purpose of ensuring that the principles in the draft are clear and easily understood as well as to ensure they can accommodate the diverse circumstances of indigenous people world-wide.

Canada notes that the new draft includes a provision that ensures that all rights under the declaration are available, without discrimination, to male and female persons, as we suggested last year. We would like to emphasize again the importance we place on such a provision and thank the Working Group for accepting our suggestion that it be included.



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