



Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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I welcome Canada's endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In doing so, the Government of Canada has reaffirmed the principles of respect, non-discrimination and good faith enshrined in the Declaration.

I also congratulate the Canadian representatives of Indigenous Peoples who patiently exerted extraordinary efforts for this Declaration, which embodies the most important rights we and our ancestors have long fought for; our right of self-determination, our right to own and control our lands, territories and resources, our right to free, prior and informed consent, among others.

The endorsement by Canada of the declaration is an important step in the right direction towards building and strengthening the relationship between Canada and indigenous peoples within Canada, and indeed with indigenous peoples throughout the world.

I look forward to seeing increased commitment of Canada as well as the whole international community to work towards the full and effective implementation of the Declaration and to protect, respect and fulfil indigenous peoples collective and individual human rights.

Finally I would like to encourage those states that have not yet done so, to endorse the Declaration.

Carlos Mamani Condori,
Chair, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues