

Canadian Intervention, as delivered, for the Forum on Minority Issues:

Mme. President,

My delegation is happy to participate in this Forum, and would like to thank the experts for their valuable contributions. We would also like to express our support for the efforts of the Independent Expert to promote and protect the human rights of persons belonging to minorities, and to raise the profile of issues facing minorities within the UN system.

We welcome the focus of this forum on education, which is an important issue for Canada with respect to minorities. Education is also a critical issue for Canada as it relates to Aboriginal people.

As many here will know, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is currently compiling materials which address innovation and leading practices as well as ongoing challenges with regard to education. Canada is actively contributing to this study with regard to education for Aboriginal people in Canada. We trust that the discussions at this Forum will complement, and not duplicate, the work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People on Education, so that together we can build a sound knowledge base and strategies for action to contribute to improved educational outcomes for all indigenous peoples and minorities.

Thank you.