

involve an examination of the relationship between states and a large number of the world's indigenous populations. The outline was presented to the Sub-Commission in August 1988. It was circulated to states with a request for comments in January 1989, Canada was pleased to have had the opportunity to comment on the outline and we look forward to reviewing the comments of other states.

We will not repeat the comments which we have already made in our own submission on the study outline. However, we would like to commend the Special Rapporteur for the universal and forward-looking approach indicated in his outline. We believe this approach is faithful to the relevant Commission resolution which included the widest number of arrangements in order to ensure that no area of the world with significant indigenous communities would be ignored in the study. We agree with the emphasis he places on the need to examine as broad a range of situations as possible. We believe that this universal approach is in conformity with the mandate of the Working Group which I have previously mentioned.

Mr. Chairman, consistent with this universal approach, Canada is particularly pleased to see the reference in Sub-Commission resolution 1988/18 to the United Nations voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. Canada is a major donor to the Voluntary Fund. In 1988, the Fund helped to ensure that representatives of a number of the world's indigenous populations were able to attend the meeting of the Working Group in Geneva. Canada believes that the Fund plays a vital role in ensuring that, in the development of standards which are meant to be universal, the needs and situations of indigenous communities from around the world are taken into account.