

provided in the past on the draft principles on indigenous rights prepared by the Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Madame Daes. Canada will be providing further comments on the new preambular paragraphs and 14 newest draft principles which have been prepared.

An underlying theme of the Canadian comments has been, on the one hand, a recognition that indigenous populations do have special needs and circumstances, and on the other a belief that the standards formulated for indigenous populations should be consistent with relevant international human rights instruments and should build on the achievements of these instruments. Objectives should be reasonable, achievable and designed to meet the needs of indigenous populations.

Mr. Chairman, Canada commends Madame Daes for all the thought and effort that she has put into the production of the current draft principles. We urge Governments, indigenous representatives and others to consider the work carefully and to comment on it in accordance with paragraph 5(a) of the Sub-Commission's resolution. We know that in preparing her new draft text, madame Daes will wish to review and consider carefully all the comments she has received.

Mr. Chairman, another item of interest is draft resolution III concerning a proposed study on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between states and indigenous populations. At its last session, the Commission authorized the production of an outline of a study on this subject. This was meant to provide states with an opportunity to review the outline before making a decision on whether to authorize the actual study. The desire of states to make such comments is understandable since such a study, according to the terms of the resolution, would