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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

16th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Finland's questions and recommendations to Canada

26 April 2013

Mr. President,

Finland wishes to thank Canada for the national report and its presentation today. We commend the Government's commitment to further engage with civil society and Aboriginal organizations on the follow-up of this second review.

Since the first UPR Canada has stated its support for the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the national report deals with various issues related to their rights, including economic, social and cultural rights.

Despite many important measures taken by the Government the situation of Aboriginal women and girls raises concern. Finland would be interested in hearing how the Government is addressing the multiple discrimination often faced by Aboriginal women and girls in all sectors of society, including education, employment and health services.

Finland has two recommendations:

- 1. Take further effective measures to ensure access to education for all Aboriginal girls and women as an essential part of the full realization of their human rights.**
- 2. Regarding combating all forms of violence against Aboriginal women and girls, support effective participation of Aboriginal peoples, especially women and their organizations, in the development, implementation and evaluation of measures taken.**

Thank you.