

35



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Statement by Mr. Madjumo S. Maruta, Charge d'affaires a.i., Mission of Namibia

UPR of Canada, 16th Session of the Human Rights Council

Working Group on the UPR, 26 April 2013, 9-12:30

Mr. President,

Namibia welcomes the delegation of Canada to its Universal Periodic Review. My delegation commends Canada for its social security policies and programmes that ensure vulnerable groups have an adequate income, housing and other relevant support. It is also noteworthy to mention that Canada is a very multicultural society that promotes and supports the integration of newcomers, and fosters social cohesion. Cognizant of the fact that Canada is working with the indigenous peoples to improve their living conditions, Namibia is concerned about the wellbeing of the Aboriginal Peoples, the First Nations, Metis and Inuit, their education levels, and their general quality of life compared to the entire Canadian society. My delegation would like to make the following recommendations to Canada:

1. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food was concerned by the deep and severe food insecurity faced by Aboriginal Peoples across Canada living both on- and off-reserves, in remote and urban areas, especially for children. Namibia therefore recommends Canada to address this issue.
2. A 2010 WHO report states that "First Nations experience disproportionately high rates of tuberculosis, diabetes, injuries, suicide and cardiovascular disease". The difference in life expectancy between Inuit Canadians and other Canadians is about 13 years, and the Inuit suicide rate is more than 11 times greater than the overall Canadian rate. Canada should therefore ensure the right to health, and an adequate standard of living for the First Nations, Metis and Inuit. I thank you Mr. President.