**UPR 31, November 12, 2018
Recommendations by Canada for Belize’s UPR**

Thank you Mr. President.

Canada commends Belize for decriminalizing same-sex sexual activity and for its progress in the recognition and protection of Indigenous land rights. We encourage Belize to address resource shortfalls for human rights institutions, the high prevalence of human trafficking and violence against women, and despite recent improvements, ongoing complaints of excessive use of force by police.

Canada recommends that Belize:

1. Increase investments in institutions responsible for access to justice and human rights, including the Ombudsman’s office.
2. Intensify implementation of a multi-sectoral approach to eradicating domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, which includes appropriate training for law enforcement, educators, and medical personnel, as well as effective support and accountability for victims.
3. Strengthen measures to combat trafficking in persons by investigating and prosecuting those responsible, as well as adopting a protection-sensitive approach to victims.
4. Address the use of excessive force by law enforcement, including through training, effective investigations and appropriate disciplinary actions in cases of police brutality.

Canada welcomes Belize’s efforts to address corruption, including its ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption. We encourage Belize to continue in this vein by strengthening institutions and implementing its anti-corruption work plan.