

Canada – Interactive Dialogue – HRC 6th session
Presentation of the report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
Thursday, September 13, 2007

Monsieur le Président,

Le respect de la diversité culturelle, linguistique, ethnique et religieuse est l'un des principes fondamentaux sur lesquels reposent les efforts du Canada pour promouvoir et assurer la protection des droits de la personne au pays et ailleurs dans le monde.

Le Canada salue les efforts de la Rapporteuse spéciale sur la liberté de religion ou de conviction en vue de dénoncer les situations où prévaut l'intolérance religieuse, ainsi que la discrétion, l'objectivité et l'indépendance dont elle fait preuve dans son travail.

In her last report, the Special Rapporteur has given a good overview of the mandate's issues of concern. Now that she has visited several countries, presented a number of general and thematic reports, and been able to focus on substantive questions, could the Special Rapporteur speak to some of the challenges and obstacles she faces in fulfilling her mandate and how they may be alleviated?

Canada is deeply concerned by ongoing discriminatory practices which target religious minorities as well as incitements to violence in the name of religion. Canada agrees with the Special Rapporteur that many further efforts need to be made at the international and national levels in order to eliminate intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief. How can the international community help the Special Rapporteur in fulfilling her mandate?

Canada encourages the continuing efforts by the Special Rapporteur to examine incidents and governmental actions that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and to recommend remedial measures.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.