



**54<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council**  
**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the**  
**Rights of Indigenous Peoples**  
**Delivered by New Zealand First Secretary Emma Hodder**  
**28 September 2023**

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Thank you Madame Vice-President.

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of Australia, Canada, and my country, Aotearoa New Zealand.

We welcome the report and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on Green financing, a just transition to protect Indigenous Peoples' rights.

This debate provides an opportunity to reflect on our progress in recognising Indigenous Peoples' rights, and the important role Indigenous Peoples have in the design, governance, and implementation of environmental solutions.

This is because indigenous rights are at the centre of the transformative change needed to address the complex, and interlinked, environmental challenges the world is facing today. Indigenous Peoples are the holders of traditional knowledge and stewards of biodiversity.

Green funding mechanisms must incorporate the needs and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples, which requires meaningful and gender-inclusive participation and input early in the design process.

A just transition must ensure that no one is left behind in the shift to a low emissions economy. Equity is key, which means the principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and good faith need to underpin a just transition.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognises the right of Indigenous Peoples to their lands, territories, and resources. The rights and relationships of Indigenous Peoples to their lands and territories must be respected fully. This should include: consultation and cooperation; obtaining free, prior, and informed consent;

providing avenues for development according to their own needs and interests; and benefit sharing that promotes and respects these rights and relationships.

Our countries are committed to ensuring that Indigenous Peoples have a partnership role in developing and implementing environmental solutions for a greener, sustainable future for all.

Thank you