

Statement of the Government of Canada

The State member Canada wrote to the IUCN Director General on 29 October 2008 providing the following statement to be included in the official record of the meeting:

“The Government of Canada takes this opportunity to restate its position on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN DRIP), which is referenced in motions 70 through 75, which were adopted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Congress in October 2008.

Canada was unable to support the UN DRIP because the text fails to adequately address Canada’s key concerns and lacks clear, practical guidance for States.

The UN DRIP is not a legally binding instrument. It has no legal effect in Canada, and its provisions do not represent customary international law.

Canada will continue to take effective action, at home and abroad, to protect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples based on our existing human rights obligations and commitments.”

This statement will be incorporated into the final published versions of the Resolutions and Recommendations concerned as well as in the Congress Proceedings.