

**Indian Council of South America
OCOPROCE International
Indigenous Peoples and Nations Coalition
International Council For Human Rights
International Human Rights Association of America Minorities
Organization for Defending Victims of Violence
CRED**

Universal Periodic Review
Wednesday 10 June 09
Item 6 Canada
Ambassador Ronald Barnes

Our delegations welcome H.E. Al-Hussin, Zied of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the conclusion of their first Universal Periodic Review and we congratulate you for your full participation and cooperation.

Everyone know the generosity of His Majesty of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for developing countries, to peoples in need, to those suffering from international disasters and all other hardships that are alleviated with your generous contributions.

The appointment of women to high level positions is lauded, though we call upon Saudi Arabia to continue to work toward more high level appointments of women. In this regard we call upon Saudi Arabia to step up the process to allow other Islamic women and all women the knowledge to realize the extent of their rights in order to overcome the confusion between the true Islamic Shari's and customs and traditions. In this regard I laude the efforts to bring in women from other countries in conferences to add to this process. This will also assist in educating the public so that women can drive freely in Saudi Arabia. We must remember that all countries have had to overcome prejudice against women in many areas, including violence. As a child I recall the prejudice of against women drivers even in the United States which included high insurance rates. Saudi Arabia can also overcome this.

Our delegations welcome the intention to ratify important international human rights instruments, particularly the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, and the migrant workers convention, refugees, statelessness, the Optional Protocol to CAT and to undertake comprehensive studies to sign and ratify other important international human rights instruments you are not a party to.

I thank you Mr. Chair