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REFERENCE:CERD/91st/EWUAP/SW/ks

13 December 2016

Excellency,

I refer to your letter of 2 November 2016 and for the information provided in response to the Committee's letter of 27 May 2016 concerning allegations of violations of the rights of indigenous women in the village of Lote Ocho in Guatemala by the employees of a Canadian company Hudbay Mineral Inc., as well as the situation of the Lubikon Lake Nation and its land claims.

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the Government in response to the allegations set out in the Committee's letter.

The Committee encourages your Government to continue to ensure that: (a) all companies registered in the State party comply with the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in particular with regard to the rights of indigenous peoples; (b) members of the Lubikon Lake Nation and their representatives are able to participate in decision-making processes that concern them; and (c) the right to free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples is fully respected whenever their rights may be affected by projects carried out on their lands. The Committee would like to inform your Government that the above-mentioned issues will be discussed in the context of the consideration of its combined 21st to 23rd periodic reports, already submitted by your Government in May 2016, and scheduled for review during the Committee's 93^{rd} session (31 July 2017 – 25 August 2017).

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Canada, with a view to assisting it to implement the Convention effectively.

Yours sincerely,

Auasta

Anastasia Crickley Chair Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Her Excellency Ms. Rosemary McCarney Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office Geneva e-mail: <u>GENEVGR@international.gc.ca</u>