

Speaking Notes

for

the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos,
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development (838w)

And

Celina Caesar-Chavannes
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International
Development (670w)

for

United Nations Voluntary National Review:
Canada's Presentation

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Minister Duclos speaks:

Mr. President, your Excellencies,
Honourable Ministers, distinguished guests,
fellow delegates, colleagues, and friends: it
is an honour to be here today at the United
Nations to present Canada's first Voluntary
National Review.

I would like to applaud the United Nations
for their continued work in challenging all
governments, to work collaboratively
towards ending poverty and inequality,
building more prosperous and peaceful
societies, and protecting our planet.

Canada is proud to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and we are committed to advancing the implementation of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, said it well when he addressed the UN General Assembly last fall: “the Sustainable Development Goals are as meaningful in Canada as they are everywhere else in the world, and we are committed to implementing them at home while we also work with our international partners to achieve them around the world.”

C'est pourquoi notre gouvernement prend des mesures concrètes pour que notre pays soit plus juste et pour s'assurer que sa prospérité et sa croissance profitent à tous.

Nous mettons en place des politiques et des programmes visant à lutter contre la pauvreté, à protéger la planète et à faire en sorte que les réussites économiques, sociales et environnementales du Canada profitent à tous et à toutes.

In this respect, the work of the Canadian Government reflects the broader global

need to build more peaceful, more prosperous, and more inclusive societies.

Through the 2030 Agenda, we are seeing people and governments all around the world embarking on an ambitious path towards ending poverty and ensuring a more sustainable future for everyone.

J'aimerais prendre un moment pour traiter plus particulièrement de deux objectifs : mettre fin à la pauvreté et assurer un avenir plus durable. Pour certains ces objectifs peuvent sembler contradictoires. Certains croient en effet qu'on peut soit faire croître

l'économie, soit protéger l'environnement.

Qu'on peut ou bien stimuler la croissance et créer des emplois OU bien réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre.

Notre gouvernement, pense plutôt que nous pouvons faire en sorte que faire croître l'économie et protéger l'environnement aillent de pair.

Au Canada et partout dans le monde, les personnes en situation de pauvreté sont les plus touchées par les changements climatiques.

Lorsque les besoins fondamentaux sont menacés et que la vie des personnes vivant dans la pauvreté devient plus difficile, il semble parfois plus simple de faire des choix à court terme, plutôt que de trouver des solutions durables à long terme.

La pauvreté est l'une des plus importantes menaces environnementales au monde.

Notre gouvernement comprend et reconnaît que la lutte contre la pauvreté et assurer des chances justes et réelles pour tous de s'épanouir sont des outils

essentiels pour protéger notre environnement.

Poverty is one of the biggest environmental threats in the world, and we must treat it as such.

Our Government believes and understands that fighting poverty and increasing opportunity for all is an essential tool in the fight against climate change.

En tant que ministre de la Famille, des Enfants et du Développement social du Canada, j'ai l'honneur de coordonner les

efforts de notre pays dans la lutte contre la pauvreté.

Lorsque le premier ministre Justin Trudeau m'a nommé au sein de son conseil des ministres, il a fait de l'élaboration de la toute première Stratégie canadienne de réduction de la pauvreté une priorité de mon mandat.

Nous dévoilerons sous peu cette stratégie, mais il est important de noter que nous avons commencé à prendre des mesures pour lutter contre la pauvreté dès que notre gouvernement est arrivé en poste.

One of our first actions was to introduce the Canada Child Benefit, a tax-free benefit that gives more money to families to help them with the high costs of raising children.

The Canada Child Benefit has helped lift hundreds of thousands of Canadians, including 300,000 children, out of poverty.

Our Government has made similarly historic investments in housing, as well as in early learning and child care.

We know that these are some of the most impactful investments we can make for middle-class Canadians and those working hard to join the middle-class. These investments provide opportunities for all, advance gender equity and strengthen our economy.

Canada's Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development, Celina Caesar-Chavannes, will now share with you what Canada is doing internationally to fight poverty and build a more sustainable future for all.

PS Celina Caesar-Chavannes speaks:

Actions taken to help build strong, resilient economies and societies must be environmentally sustainable. Canada understands the importance and urgency of taking actions on global environmental challenges.

That is why Canada has laid out a domestic Strategy to take action on environmental issues that reflects the SDGs and our commitment to the Paris Agreement.

Canada also recognizes that challenges don't stop at borders.

Just as we are working domestically to give everyone a real and fair chance to succeed, and ensure that all Canadians can share equitably in our prosperity, Canada's foreign policy is guided by the belief that no one should be left behind.

This is particularly true for women and girls. In far too many instances, in far too many places, women and girls face discrimination and barriers in realizing their full potential.

Our government wants to see women and girls fully involved in decision-making and

policy-making, so they can shape the services, programs and policies that affect their lives.

Canada has become a global champion for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, both at home and abroad.

We are firm in our adoption of a rights-based approach to international development. We are also firm in our adoption of an intersectional lens to analyzing and implementing programs. This requires us to accept the various ways in which systems of social

categorization—gender and sexuality, race/ethnicity and social class for instance—intersect with one another.

When we launched our Feminist International Assistance Policy last year, we focused our efforts on closing gender gaps and eliminating barriers to equality in order to effectively improve everyone's chance for success.

For example, when legal and social barriers that discriminate against women are eliminated, remarkable change happens. With better access to opportunities, assets

and capital, women start businesses, get decent jobs, and make informed choices. And they invest the profits in their families and communities.

Moreover, we recognize that access to education needs to go hand-in-hand with access to sexual and reproductive health care services and decent jobs. We know this from our own experience in Canada, and we are proud to stand up for women around the world to have these same rights.

En tant que Canadiennes et Canadiens, nous sommes fiers des progrès que nous

avons réalisés — mais nous reconnaissons également que nous avons encore du travail à faire.

Depuis trop longtemps, les groupes sous-représentés comme les femmes, les nouveaux arrivants, les Autochtones, les personnes handicapées, la communauté LGBTQ2 et d'autres groupes font face à des obstacles qui les ont empêchés de profiter pleinement de la prospérité économique, sociale et environnementale du Canada.

Plus particulièrement, nous devons

reconnaître le passé marqué par les abus et les politiques colonialistes du Canada à l'égard des peuples autochtones dont les effets se font encore sentir aujourd'hui.

Notre gouvernement s'est donné comme priorité de consulter les peuples autochtones dans le cadre des efforts de réconciliation et de créer un Cadre de reconnaissance et de mise en œuvre des droits en partenariat avec les peuples autochtones.

As our Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

declared on National Aboriginal Day: “No relationship is more important to Canada than the relationship with Indigenous Peoples. Our Government is working together with Indigenous Peoples to build a nation-to-nation, Inuit-Crown, government-to-government relationship—one based on respect, partnership, and recognition of rights.”

Our challenge and our responsibility, to Indigenous Peoples and to all the under-represented groups, is to address imbalances, break social exclusions to ensure everyone feels part of what we are

building: a better world for all.

We must work to reduce social, political, and economic uncertainty, and we can do so by ensuring the prosperity benefits everyone.

We must engage with the under-represented groups by protecting and promoting their human rights; by increasing their participation as decision-makers; and by fostering conditions that give them greater and sustained access to resources.

We must put people at the heart of all that

we do.

I will now let Minister Duclos conclude.

Conclusion (Minister Duclos closes):

Thank you Celina.

Canada's first Voluntary National Review is a critical milestone towards all the work that needs to be done. It allows us to take stock of our progress and chart a path forward—
together.

And when I say together, I mean not just in Canada, but at the UN, which is and will remain a vital forum for global cooperation and solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. In building a better world, multilateralism is the recognition that we are stronger when we stand together.

Canada is your partner, and ally to move ahead this ambitious global commitment.

Thank you.