**Canada’s input to the OHCHR questionnaire on implementation of GA resolution 68/268**

1. As part of our continuing efforts to enhance our treaty body reporting process, Canada has agreed to undertake the simplified reporting procedure, when offered by UN treaty bodies. To date, we have adopted the simplified reporting procedure for the preparation of Canada’s seventh periodic report on the *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, that was submitted to the UN Committee in September 2016. Canada will appear before the UN Committee against Torture in November 2018. We will then subsequently evaluate the results and benefits of the simplified reporting procedure and determine if this is the optimal way for Canada to produce its reports in the future. Canada has also agreed to use the simplified reporting procedure in the preparation of its next periodic report on the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, which is due in July 2020.

Canada believes that the simplified reporting procedure could positively influence our dialogue with UN treaty bodies. In that respect, we encourage UN Committees that are adopting the simplified reporting procedure, to develop focussed questions that address the key issues with respect to implementation of the Conventions. We would also encourage UN Committees to bear in mind the prescribed page limits for country reports when determining the number and scope of the questions.

1. Canada believes that meetings of States parties would be more efficient and effective if more space were made in the agenda to have substantive discussions. The key issue is what the topics are, how they are chosen and how to keep the discussions non-politicized.
2. Canada recognizes the key role played by human rights defenders in protecting and promoting human rights and strengthening the rule of law. Human rights defenders help to draw the attention of governments and communities to problems that need to be addressed. The promotion of respect for human rights defenders is critical to inclusive, safe and prosperous societies. We are committed to supporting their work at the bilateral level as well as within the multilateral human rights system. We have been strongly encouraging States to work with the OHCHR and other Special Procedures to safeguard the active participation of civil society and human rights defenders at the UN without threat of reprisals.
3. The importance of having committee members that are well qualified in the area of human rights covered by the respective convention is regularly reinforced in Canada’s engagement with the treaty bodies. It is important not only because of the legal implications of decisions made in communications, interpretations set out in general comments and concluding observations in relation to Canada’s reporting obligations under treaties, but also because of the budgetary implications. Ensuring that all members are qualified to carry their weigh on committees will contribute to efficiencies and effectiveness which cannot be maximized if there is a situation where a small number of members carry out a disproportionate amount of the work.
4. Canada generally values a merit-based approach in assessing candidatures for election to UN treaty bodies although due consideration is given to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities. While Canada does not disclose its voting positions, when evaluating candidacies, Canada engages in extensive consultations to identify those candidates who are most qualified, in addition to ensuring that the overall composition of UN treaty bodies is balanced.