

## **Sixth Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

**Geneva, 8-12 July 2013**

### **Statement by the Danish delegation on agenda item 3: World Conference on Indigenous Peoples**

On behalf of Denmark and Greenland, let me congratulate the new members of the Expert Mechanism and you, Mr. Chairperson, on your election.

My delegation wishes to reiterate continued support for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in September 2014 in New York.

We express our appreciation to the co-facilitators, H.E Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba, Permanent Representative of Mexico, and International Adviser for the Sami Parliament in Norway, Mr. John Henriksen for the successful consultations already conducted, and we now look forward to the appointment or re-appointment of the co-facilitators.

We encourage all states and stakeholders to take an active part in the preparations for the World Conference, so that it may have a successful outcome. In that respect it is of key importance that indigenous peoples participate fully and effectively in all phases of the World Conference.

We would like to express our appreciation to Mexico who intends to host a regional and thematic consultation in the beginning of 2014. This will be an important contribution to the preparatory process.

We express our sincere appreciation to the Sami Parliament of Norway for hosting the successful Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference in Alta in June 2013. We welcome the outcome document of the Conference and commend in this regard the Indigenous Global Coordination Group for its accomplishments so far.

We consider the Alta outcome document to be of great value for the process in the lead up to the World Conference. Denmark supports in that regard the suggestion by the co-facilitators to submit the Alta outcome document as an official document of the coming session of the General Assembly.

The Alta document's recommendations for themes for the World Conference and for the outcome document are of great importance to indigenous peoples and must be duly noted by States. It is also important that the document puts emphasis on the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. States and indigenous peoples must engage with these processes in order to move the indigenous peoples' agenda forward.

Following a request from Denmark, the Alta outcome document has been distributed to EU member states and the European Commission through the Council of the European Union's Human Rights Working Group (COHOM) which is responsible for human rights issues in the EU's external relations.

Finally, the World Conference is an opportunity to let the world know the realities of indigenous peoples and to consolidate the results that have been achieved over the last decades. As expressed by the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples, Professor James Anaya, it is also an opportunity to celebrate indigenous peoples and their rich contributions to the world. We must not lose sight of this important celebratory aspect.

Thank you.