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**4th SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM
ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES**

Item 5: Future work of the Forum

NEW YORK
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Madame President,

Speaking on behalf of Denmark and Greenland, I wish to express our great satisfaction with the manner in which The Permanent Forum is carrying out its heavy tasks.

From the very start the Forum has been action oriented in addressing matters affecting the daily life of Indigenous Peoples throughout the world. Through an intensive dialogue with the UN special agencies, funds and programmes and with the assistance of a highly competent secretariat, The Permanent Forum has by now established itself as the leading authority on indigenous issues within the UN-system.

An essential part of the Danish Government's strategy in support of Indigenous Peoples is to secure that Indigenous Peoples are given a voice of their own at the international level. That is exactly what has been achieved in this Forum where representatives of Indigenous Peoples are working on an equal footing with independent experts appointed by governments thus signalling true partnership in action. The work of the Forum is also in line with the Secretary-General's reform program: action oriented and forward looking.

The Permanent Forum was established as a result of the 1. Decade of the World's Indigenous People - based on an initiative emanating from the Greenland Home Rule Government back in 1993 on the occasion of the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. It would only seem natural that the Forum should now play a central role in furthering the aspirations of Indigenous Peoples during the 2. Decade recently proclaimed during the last UN General-Assembly.

The programme of activities adopted for the 1. Decade under the heading: "Partnership in Action" has provided an excellent basis for improving the situation of Indigenous Peoples worldwide. Although the work has been carried forward in many respects much remains to be done. The 2. Decade is therefore a welcomed opportunity to continue the work from the first decade:

- Given the fact that the goals of the 2. Decade corresponds to those of the Permanent Forum it would appear natural to incorporate the work program of the Forum into the programme of the Decade,
- In this context the role of the inter-Agency Support Group should be highlighted in the programme,
- As far as norm-setting activities are concerned efforts in this field should be concentrated on finalising the draft declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples as early as possible and without necessarily relating this project to the Decade. Further standard-setting work does not appear to recommend itself for the time being,
- The main thrust of the programme should rather be oriented towards concrete projects which have a bearing on the daily lives of Indigenous Peoples - individually and collectively - and be based on reliable data,

- The MDG should serve as an inspiration in this respect,
- Equal participation and partnership should be key words for the 2. Decade,
- Last but not least a renewed appeal must be issued to call on all actors - governments, inter-Governmental organisations, NGOs, funds and programmes as well as private foundations to contribute financially to the realisation of the program. Denmark expects to continue its substantive support to the activities of the 2. Decade as we did during the 1. Decade.

Madame President,

We look forward to the adoption of an action-oriented programme of activities for the 2. Decade for the Worlds Indigenous Peoples – based upon the draft to be prepared by the Coordinator of the Decade. We clearly need further partnership in action.

Thank you for your attention.