

Geneva, July 6th 2022

**15th Session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Item 11: Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples in the
United Nations**

Intervention by the Kingdom of Denmark

[Check against delivery]

Thank you chair,

The Kingdom of Denmark wishes to use this opportunity to reiterate its unwavering support for indigenous peoples to enjoy their human rights in full. This includes that “*indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights*”, as stipulated in art. 18 of UNDRIP.

In this regard, and in light of what happened during the EMRIP-session on Monday, we reiterate what should be self-evident, namely that all non-State members participating in meetings of the UN should be able to do so without any threats or fear of risks of reprisals. That of course includes indigenous peoples participating in the meetings of EMRIP or elsewhere.

Chair,

We want to highlight the importance of delivering on the commitment made by all Member States at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in 2014, to enable the participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant issues affecting them. We commend EMRIP for the work it has done so far to promote the participation of Indigenous Peoples’ representatives and institutions.

Partly due to COVID, the process has been moving slow. The third informal interactive hearing with indigenous peoples is finally set to take place during UNGA77. We truly hope that we can succeed in ensuring a broad, inclusive and geographically balanced participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in the hearing.

It is worth noting that the Human Rights Council decides on its own rules of procedure, including on accreditation. Therefore, the Council could decide to consider the matter independently of the GA, so as to progress on the process as a whole. In this regard, we look forward to the four-day workshop, taking place in autumn, where we hope important decisions will be made to facilitate indigenous peoples' participation at the Human Rights Council.

However, that being said, let me underline that it is our principled position that the matter should be addressed by the General Assembly as is also foreseen in the relevant resolution, as it needs to be implemented across the UN-system for it to comply with UNDRIP.

Thank you.