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**PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK  
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Statement by

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Issues**

**Statement by Denmark-Greenland on agenda item 7:**

**“Half-day discussion on the World Conference on  
Indigenous Peoples”**

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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, I would like to express our appreciation to Mexico's Ambassador de Alba and Saami Parliament Representative John Henriksen for accepting the invitation of the President of the General Assembly to assist the consultations on the preparations and the modalities for the World Conference. Denmark and Greenland wish to assure you of our full support and co-operation. Furthermore, we commend the establishment of the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group as this group will help both states and indigenous peoples in ensuring that regional perspectives coupled with youth and women's concerns will be feed into the preparations for the conference. And thus constituting an important pillar for a successful World Conference that will be *inclusive, engaging, and ambitious*.

As co-hosts and co-sponsors to the Indigenous Peoples' Brainstorming meeting on the World Conference in January in Copenhagen there should be no doubt of our views on the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the World Conference as well as in the preparations. Participation of indigenous peoples is in our view both a means and an end for a successful outcome of World Conference. The sharing of perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples would ensure that the concise actions oriented documents the conference produces truly reflect – metaphorically speaking - the ground states and indigenous peoples already have gained in the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples with a committed view to tackle the challenges ahead.

In the preparations leading up to the World Conference we would like to recommend that due account is taken of the Human Rights' Council decision A/HRC/18/8 where the Secretary General, in cooperation with the OHCHR, the Office of Legal Affairs and other relevant parts of the Secretariat is asked to prepare a detailed document“ on the ways and means of promoting the participation at the United Nations of recognized indigenous peoples representatives on issues affecting them, given that they are not always organised as Non-governmental organisations”.

In our opinion, this document and the discussions and recommendations arising from this work would be one of the central substantive themes that states and indigenous peoples should focus on in the preparatory process. Apart from this suggestion, we would like to await the views of indigenous peoples before we form an opinion on the other more specific themes for the World Conference.

Furthermore, we also share the view that a robust preparatory process also includes meetings at regional level – and that indigenous peoples' own preparatory processes are recognized so that documentation arising from those, become part of the official UN documentation for the World Conference.

In this regard, we would like to thank the Saami Parliament in Norway on its offer and invitation to host an International Indigenous Peoples' Conference in June 2013 in Alta, Norway.

In closing, the scene is set for a process which will live up to the motto of the Second Decade: "Partnership for Dignity and Action". I can assure you that Denmark and Greenland will contribute actively to achieve this goal.

Qujanaq - Thank you.