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**Tenth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
New York 16-27 May 2011**

**Statement by Ambassador Erik Laursen, Deputy Permanent Representative of
Denmark**

**on agenda item 4a:
Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and
fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples**

Thank you Madam Chair,

Let me start by conveying my deep personal appreciation of the excellent work of the Permanent Forum and to congratulate you on your election as the new Chair. As always, you can count on our full support.

I would like also to thank Special Rapporteur James Anaya for sharing his experiences over the last year and express our appreciation for the work done. We always highly appreciate the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on his activities and efforts to promote the rights of indigenous peoples.

Denmark is pleased to see that the three UN mechanisms with specific mandates to address indigenous peoples – the Permanent Forum, the Special Rapporteur and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – are increasingly coordinating new efforts. Together they have proven their ability to cooperate effectively in carrying out their respective mandates in a complementary manner, and by this, attaining increased effectiveness and avoiding duplication. In addition, we welcome that the Special Rapporteur has taken initiative to coordinate his activities with other actors of the UN family, such as the UNDP.

Mr. Anaya, we would like to commend you for the many extensive reports and studies you have elaborated on issues of relevance to the advancement of the rights of indigenous peoples as well as the many country visits you have conducted over the years. The commitment with

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which you carry out your mandate is impressive, and we would like to take this opportunity to ask you a few questions with regard to your work.

We are aware that you are currently carrying out a study on the rights of indigenous peoples in relation to natural resource extraction and development projects affecting them, which we believe to be a highly important issue. This study will include the development of a set of guidelines directed at States and corporations among others. We look forward to seeing the result of your findings. Could you – already at this early stage - elaborate a bit on how you envision States and corporations may best ensure that such projects are carried out in a manner that is consistent with the rights of indigenous peoples.

In your report to the Human Rights Council during its 15th session (A/HRC/15/37), you elaborated on the issue of corporate responsibility with respect to indigenous rights and the impact of corporate activities on the rights of indigenous peoples. This, as you point out, is a complex question. You mention that there is an urgent need to reach a minimum understanding of what corporate responsibility is with regard to the rights of indigenous peoples. In your opinion, how do we best go about trying to reach such an understanding and how can states most effectively help push this agenda? Also what has been the nature of the feedback you have received from private companies on the issue of corporate responsibility with respect to indigenous peoples' rights?

Lastly, Denmark looks forward to following your continued work as Special Rapporteur and will continue to be supportive of your dedicated efforts to advance the rights of indigenous peoples.

Thank you.