

**Thirteenth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
New York, 12-23 May 2014**

Agenda item 6

World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Statement by Denmark and Greenland

A successful realization of the United Nations High Level Plenary to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples is of utmost importance to us. We have therefore participated actively in the preparations for the conference that is still foreseen to take place on September 22 and 23 of this year.

Many of us, being Member States, Indigenous Peoples' representatives and organizations, civil society organizations and international organizations and agencies, have worked and are still working hard for the realization of the World Conference. This process has not been a picnic in the sun, as we say in Danish, but at least we have been able to lay a robust foundations for the World Conference from the point in time where the idea to have the conference arose and became a decision of the third committee, through the successful consultations on the modalities - skillfully lead by the then Permanent Representative to the UN of Mexico, Mr. Luis Alfons de Alba, and the International Advisor of the Saami Parliament of Norway, Mr. John Henriksen, and through the regional and global preparatory processes of indigenous peoples.

Almost a year ago the enormously fruitful global indigenous peoples' preparatory conference was held in Alta, Norway. We would like to express our gratitude to the Saami Parliament of Norway not only for their warm hospitality during those sun-filled days, but also for the visionary and brave idea and leadership in hosting a global indigenous peoples conference. Thank you – qujanaq – once again.

The Alta Outcome documents provides, in our view, a rich platform for dialogues between member states and indigenous peoples and other supporters of indigenous peoples rights both on suggestions for the themes of the World Conference, but also for what should be developed to become the concise action oriented outcome document.

Unfortunately, there has been very little, if any, progress, for the past year in the preparations for the World Conference. The past couple of month's uncertainties with regards to the interactive hearing that is to be organized before the end of June of this year have been particularly discouraging.

We have listened with interest to the proposal of the President of the General Assembly presented this morning by Ambassador Crispin Gregoire on how to move forward with the consultations for the outcome document. We look forward to receive the proposal in writing as we need to consider the formats carefully.

We note with some concern that the date of May 29 has been foreseen for the first consultation and that this will take place before the important inputs of the interactive hearing.

As the primary objectives of holding the World Conference is to exchange best practices on the recognition, promotion and implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of

Indigenous Peoples, we strongly believe that the quality of the preparatory process is as important as the final results of the conference. In other words, the means characterized by the full, effective and equal participation of indigenous peoples' in the preparatory process, is as important, as the ends.

Thank you.