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

**INSTRUMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF
VISIONS AND STRATEGIES**

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- Denmark would like to start by congratulating the chair on her appointment and warmly welcomes the new members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Denmark is a strong supporter of the Permanent Forum and much has been achieved in what is in fact only a very short time. Many challenges lie ahead, especially on the issue of focus and implementation at ground level, which will lead to real change and improved living standards for indigenous peoples. Denmark is confident that the new members are well equipped to tackle these tasks ahead.
- Denmark greatly appreciates the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. We are very satisfied to see that the Permanent Forum has established itself as an authority on indigenous issues. It has been clear from the dialogue during the past two days that the Forum is indeed already making a difference.
- As many of you will know Denmark has a strategy on its support to indigenous peoples. This strategy, issued for the first time back in 1994, has undergone a thorough revision process and a new edition was issued last year.
- But because we realised that the real challenge is to implement new norms and standards on the ground, Denmark and Greenland launched a Partnership on Indigenous Rights and Sustainable Development at the Johannesburg summit in 2002. Here Denmark offered to study and develop a set of 'best practices' on how to include relevant indigenous rights in the sector programme support.
- A side event was organised at last year's Permanent Forum meeting to discuss the draft of the these 'best practices' - or 'Tool Kit' as we have chosen to call them. Many comments were received and today I bring you the final version.
- The Tool Kit contains a section on 'best practices' to be considered at the general level in sector programme support. In addition, the Tool Kit also looks more specifically at 2 cross cutting issues, human rights and decentralisation, and at 4 sectors – education, health, transport and agriculture - all directly or indirectly relevant to the Millenium Development Goals.
- To complete the circle of instruments we have since last year developed a 'Technical Note on Monitoring and Indicators on Indigenous Peoples'. These indicators are far from only economic – they seek to take an inclusive view of indigenous peoples' concept of poverty.

- The MDGs offer an excellent opportunity to ‘feed’ the UN system with indigenous peoples concerns. The MDGs force us to focus our efforts especially at the practical level.
- We believe that the circle of instruments that Denmark presents to you here today could provide valuable guidance for all indigenous peoples practitioners to ensure the implementation of indigenous sensitive MDGs.
- All three instruments are being translated into both French and Spanish. For those interested copies of these publications can be found in the back of the room or very soon on the Danish Foreign Ministry website www.um.dk.
- Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished members of the Permanent Forum, thank you for your patience and attention.