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Statement of the Danish Delegation on Item 3b: Indigenous Peoples and Forests

Presented by Jorgen G. Jensen, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Madam Chairperson, distinguished members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:

Protection of the forests constitutes a key element in the Danish strategy for support to climate change mitigation and conservation of the biodiversity. Safeguarding of the rights of indigenous peoples figures prominently in this assistance. The Danish strategies for support to indigenous peoples' rights have been developed in a close cooperation with the Government of Greenland, a cooperation, which also played an important role in the establishment of the UNPFII.

As part of the multilateral cooperation, Denmark participates in three programmes: The Forest Investment Programme under the development banks (FIP) with DKK 54 mio. (approx. USD 10 mio.); The World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility with DKK 30 mio. (approx. 5.5 mio); and UN-REDD with DKK 43 mio. (approx. USD 7.5 mio.).

Further, IUCN has received DKK 25 mio. (approx. USD 4.5) for poverty oriented REDD activities. The goal is to develop resource management practices, which take a point of departure in the needs of the local communities, including the indigenous peoples.

Bilaterally Denmark is supporting a number of forest-related activities and REDD programmes, comprising a programme for capacity building in Bolivia, conservation of natural forests in Nicaragua, management and conservation of natural forests in Cambodia, and participatory forest management in Tanzania. A community based forest management programme in Nepal was completed in 2009. As a minor, but maybe in a longer perspective important, activity the Danish supported regional environment programme in Central America, PREMACA, conveys support through IUCN in Central America and the private association of industries AGEXPORT to indigenous communities in Guatemala, who are entering the carbon market,

Conservation of natural forests and forest regeneration are important elements of the Danish policies and strategies for environment and climate change mitigation. Up-coming activities comprise support to a REDD programme in the Harapan province of Indonesia, on forest regeneration and participatory sustainable management. In no occasion is support given to transform natural forests to energy crop production.

Participation by indigenous peoples and local communities has been included in the programmes supported by Denmark, backed by particular budget allocations although not all the participating governments have wanted to go as far as stipulated in the UNDRIP. Still care has been taken to introduce a number of safeguards for indigenous peoples' rights in the programmes.

Thank you for your attention.