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

**Statement by Eva Raabyemagle, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN
on agenda item 6:
Comprehensive Dialogue with the United Nations Children's Fund**

Thank you madam Chair

Let me start by thanking the distinguished representative of UNICEF for the very informative presentation of the report on UNICEF's approach to promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous children and women, and on UNICEF's various activities regarding indigenous peoples' issues.

As you are well aware, Denmark is not just a good friend of UNICEF but also a supporter of the equity-based approach to refocus on the most marginalized groups, and we see a clear link from this to your work with and for indigenous peoples.

We have learnt from the report that UNICEF is currently working on an organizational framework for addressing indigenous issues, based on the PFII request from 2006.

We support these efforts, and expect to see the strong momentum of the equity approach, and reaching the most marginalized, translated into a soon-to-come comprehensive policy framework accompanied by guidelines for implementation.

After reviewing the report, we have a few questions and inputs to the discussion here today:

- Can you elaborate a bit more on the content and gist of the framework? How far along is the work?
- The framework will serve as a guide for country offices – are you planning to have performance incentives linked to the framework?
- The equity approach to programming focuses on addressing bottlenecks for accessing services (such as education, health care, sanitation, clean water etc.) – do you see specific bottlenecks relevant for UNICEF's work with indigenous peoples? How do you plan to address these?
- Indigenous issues are often culturally and politically sensitive issues – how does UNICEF plan to engage with indigenous peoples' in contexts where their perception of needs might be at odds with the country's broader vision for development?
- Is there going to be an advocacy strategy?
- Lastly, and related to my question about advocacy: It has been a general trend in the presentations this year to name Education as one of the most important factors for economic and social development among indigenous peoples. Does UNICEF plan to act on this information, and include under the framework a campaign or other activities to secure that indigenous people and their children are offered the same educational opportunities as other members of society?

Thank you.