

Comments and questions from the Danish Observer Government to the representative of UNDP

Let me first of all thank the six organisations for preparing reports on how they address the issue of indigenous peoples in their work and for making these reports available for scrutiny and comments. I hope that the comment provided today and tomorrow is seen in the positive spirit in which they are given.

Denmark congratulates UNDP with the emphasis given to Indigenous peoples in the present programme in Asia and the Pacific and the upcoming programme in Latin America and the Caribbean. It also sounds promising that UNDP RIPP is coming up with a tool kit on a human development approach and indigenous peoples. We hope the tool kit can be used widely in UNDP.

As far as we can see, these are however the only major programmes focusing on indigenous peoples. The remainder of UNDP's activities involving indigenous peoples seem to be quite small projects that only occupy a small part of all UNDP's activities. *Moreover when reading the report we noticed lack of references on ways of mainstreaming indigenous peoples into all other relevant UNDP programmes and projects.*

This makes me forward 5 Questions on which the Danish Government places emphasis.

1) It seems that Indigenous issues are not systematically entering the UN and UNDP programming, planning systems and cycles, where it is relevant. *Is UNDP having any plans to mainstream Indigenous issues in programming, planning systems and planning cycles?*

2) UNDP has no agency strategy for the incorporation of Indigenous issues. *Are there any plans to develop such a strategy?*

3) *How do UNDP incorporate lessons from its project into the mainstream work of UNDP?*

4) UNDP country offices need staff, which are familiar with Indigenous issues. *How does UNDP plan to capacity build country offices in countries with indigenous peoples?*

5) *How will UNDP ensure free, prior and informed consent in all projects in areas with Indigenous peoples.*