

**Statement by the Danish Delegation**  
**HRC, 26<sup>th</sup> session, Item 3&5**  
**Indigenous peoples**  
**Wednesday, 17 September 2014**

**Half-day discussion on indigenous peoples**

Mr. President,

It is a pleasure once again to address the Human Rights Council on the question of indigenous peoples' rights.

In January 2012, more than two years ago, the Government of Greenland and Denmark hosted the first indigenous brainstorming meeting on the World Conference. Now the Conference is less than one week away. We look forward to a successful event with a substantive, action-oriented outcome.

Looking ahead, it is important that the World Conference outcome document will be a living document with actual impact on the ground. The World Conference is not an end goal, but a stepping stone towards better application of the rights of indigenous peoples, as entered in the UNDRIP and ILO Convention No. 169.

To ensure timely follow-up to the Conference, the Government of Mexico and Denmark will, together with ILO, the University of Lucerne and the International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs, host a seminar on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November in Geneva.

The seminar will not only contribute to the follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the World Conference but also take stock of ILO Convention No. 169, adopted 25 years ago. This convention has informed constitutional reforms, provided a framework for the negotiation of peace agreements and influenced the design of many laws, policies and programmes in various countries. Yet the Convention has an unused potential. The seminar will look more closely at the lessons drawn from 25 years of experience with the Convention and identify challenges and opportunities related to the effective operationalization of indigenous peoples' rights. We sincerely hope that all member states and indigenous representatives will participate in the seminar to share their valuable perspectives and experiences.

Thank you.