

2nd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues



Agenda item 4 b "Follow up on WSSD"

Report to the Permanent Forum on the Partnership on Indigenous Peoples Rights and Sustainable Development - capacity-building for dialogue.

The Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland together with representatives of indigenous organisations, likeminded countries, institutions and organisations initiated a "Partnership on Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development - capacity-building for dialogue" in connection with the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in August 2002. To get the Partnership off the ground, a workshop was held in Copenhagen on 24-25 March 2003.

53 participants from indigenous peoples organisations, UNDP, the EU commission, The World Bank, IFAD and the governments of Norway, Finland, Denmark and Greenland worked for two days exchanging views and suggesting activities for the partnership in the following areas:

- **Lessons learned regarding implementation of development policies on indigenous peoples.**
- **Training and awareness raising by indigenous peoples.**
- **Support to indigenous peoples' organisations in influencing key policy processes globally.**

As can be seen from the report that is available on the website of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.um.dk, the workshop identified a multitude of areas for activities and action that the partners could take on during the course of the partnership. A planning and co-ordination committee has been established to ensure efficient communication and information exchange.

The basic idea, was for the participants of the workshop to sign up for specific activities in order to implement or further the ideas generated at the workshop. The participants also agreed to report to the Permanent Forum on the progress of its work so that the partnership also may benefit from the advice of the forum. So far, the following commitments for activities within the partnership have been made: ICC and Greenland Home Rule will take the lead in furthering indigenous peoples work in the area of intellectual property, genetic resources, folklore and traditional resources within the framework of the partnership. The Danish government will conduct a study on how the rights of indigenous peoples can be integrated in the sector programme approach. (Denmark like an increasing number of donor countries are basing most of their bilateral development cooperation on the so-called sector programme approach). CORE and CHT partner organisations will also carry out a project on capacity building and awareness on indigenous peoples' gender dimensions and sustainable development. Tebtebba foundation will be hosting the groupserve and web-site of the partnership.

It is our hope, that more partners will make commitments to more activities or other contributions following the receipt of the final report.

We believe, the practical and pragmatic approach of this partnership holds enormous potential in strengthening the capacity for dialogue between indigenous peoples and donors in promoting and strengthening indigenous peoples rights and contributions to sustainable development. And we would like to encourage more indigenous peoples organisations, governments and international agencies/ multilateral donor to actively join our partnership on capacity-building for dialogue and contribute to the implementation of its roster of ideas for activities and action.

Mr. Chairman, prior to next year's session of the forum we will send the Permanent Forum a progress report on this partnership on indigenous peoples rights and sustainable development and we will be looking forward to hear your views on our report at next years session.

Qujanaq - thank you