

22 May 2009 PM

Item U

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PFO9 andreas 201

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

FAO should be congratulated with the emerging policy, and that it will be sent for consultation with Indigenous peoples' organisations.

FAO should be complimented on the very specific description of the limitations and constraints the organization is facing in ensuring a proper inclusion of Indigenous peoples' issues in the work.

It is written in the report that "there is no overall framework for action because member governments have not requested an explicit focus on indigenous issues". I will of course follow up on this in our formal contacts with FAO in Rome.

FAO describes in honest terms that there is some institutional resistance. *We would like to ask FAO how this institutional resistance can be reversed?*

The report focuses on Latin America where the identification of indigenous peoples has been fairly straightforward, little is written on the other continents. *Is that because there are very few projects elsewhere?*

Even in Latin America the projects designed for indigenous peoples and involving *indigenous peoples are very small and relatively few, taking FAO's size into consideration. We would like to see a mainstreaming policy addressing indigenous issues in all areas where indigenous peoples are found. Will such a mainstreaming be part of the new strategy?*

When we see the relation between livelihood and indigenous peoples, the report is written in quite general terms. Looking at a report from FAO on Indigenous peoples I really miss the words Pastoralist and Pastoralism. In many countries in Africa Pastoralists constitute large groups of indigenous peoples, and FAO should be the organisation supporting these peoples in sustaining their livelihoods. *Is FAO planning to have special projects and programmes for pastoralists?*

FAO is congratulated for undertaking research on Indigenous issues. *We will propose that the subjects for the research are defined with participation of indigenous peoples and undertaken with high participation of indigenous researchers to ensure capacity building and proper delivery of the research results?*

As a final question I would like to hear how FAO will apply Free prior and informed consent where projects and activities are implemented in areas with indigenous population?