

Agenda item 6

Discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Statement by Denmark and Greenland

At this stage of the preparatory process for the High level Plenary Meeting of the GA, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, Denmark and Greenland would like to express our gratitude to the President of the General Assembly and his two co-facilitators the Permanent Representative of Mexico, H.E Ambassador Luis Alfons de Alba, and the International Adviser for the Saami Parliament in Norway, Mr. John Henriksen, for their diligent and tireless efforts in working with Member States, and in consultation with indigenous peoples, in achieving the modalities resolution that we now have for the organizational arrangements of the World Conference.

Secondly, we would also like to thank the Global Coordinating Committee of Indigenous Peoples for their vital role in ensuring an effective and inclusive liaison network between the regional indigenous caucuses for the WCIP as well as for the Youth and Women's caucuses. By now, all the indigenous regional and thematic caucuses have had their preparatory meetings.

A note of gratitude also go to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and those governments, UN Agencies and NGOs that have contributed to the preparatory efforts.

The outcome documents of all preparatory meetings held so far provide for a rich foundation for the processes ahead, in particular Indigenous Peoples' own Global Conference. All this seems promising for the final determination of the specific themes for the round tables and interactive panel of the World Conference, as well as for a concise action oriented outcome document.

In this context, we would like to express our interest in the following three issues and ideas that have come out of the various preparatory meetings and to recommend that discussions and elaborations of these be secured in the preparatory process:

1. As the fundamental objective of the World Conference is to step up the realization and implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples, we believe that continuous and strengthened attention should be given to the discussions and elaborations of establishment of ways and means of promoting the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them within the United Nations system (ref. article 41 on the UNDRIP) so as to ensure a strong basis for the consideration of the issue during the World Conference and the 69th session of the GA as stipulated in OP 11 of Third Committee Resolution A/67/454.

2. By the same token, we look forward to the PFII *Study an Optional Protocol to the UNDRIP on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples focusing on a potential voluntary mechanism to serve as a*

complaint body at the international level and in particular for claims and breaches of indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources at the domestic level, so that it can serve as a background discussion paper during the preparatory process.

3. In last week's dialogue with United Nation's agencies and funds, my delegation made a strong call for strengthened efforts within the entire UN system and the IFIs on the rights of indigenous peoples. Except for a few shining examples, as well as many expressions of good will, we are of the impression that work pertaining to the rights and issues of indigenous peoples too often are being isolated and compartmentalized with a few dedicated individuals or teams within UN Agencies and IFIs and thereby often falling under the radar of the senior-level management. It is in this context that we find the idea of the GA to establish a position of a high level official for the IP's with the aim to strengthen the United Nations capacity and efforts towards ensuring the full realization of the rights of indigenous peoples and to ensure that these rights are taken into account in all activities of the UN, very interesting and would like to see a further discussion of this idea during the preparatory process.

The Global Indigenous Peoples Preparatory Conference for the WCIP will be held in Alta, Norway, June 10-12, 2013. We would like to thanks the host - the Saami Parliament in Norway - for inviting us to participate as observers and we do look forward to work with indigenous peoples, Member State delegations, NGOs and UN Indigenous mechanisms, including members of the PFII during the Alta conference and beyond in securing a constructive preparatory process for the WCIP.

Qujanaq - Altami takuss ! Thank you.