

**Statement by the Danish Delegation  
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 13<sup>th</sup> session, Item 8  
Comprehensive Dialogue with UN Agencies and Funds  
Thursday, 15 May 2014**

**Statement by the Danish Delegation**

Thank you Madame Chairperson,

First, Denmark and Greenland would like to thank UNICEF and the Inter-Agency Support Group for their comprehensive report from the annual meeting in October 2013.

Denmark highly appreciates the ongoing efforts of UN agencies to integrate indigenous peoples' rights through policies and operational guidelines. We find it important to ensure that sufficient funds are allocated for the implementation of the policies; budgets should be allocated to ensure full and informed participation of indigenous peoples in UN programmes that affect indigenous peoples.

We are pleased to see that FAO and IFAD in 2014 has published a guidance note on "Respecting free, prior and informed consent", in relation to land acquisitions, and in that context the advice given by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for during the review phase.

It has also been encouraging to read UNICEF's contribution to this year's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and we encourage UNICEF to disseminate results related to indigenous children's participation and empowerment, based on such best practices as described in the UNICEF report to this Forum.

Together with UNFPA, the ILO and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-

General on Violence against Children, UNICEF has shown a good example through the 2013 study on violence against indigenous children. Denmark encourages UN agencies to continue cooperation efforts in this field also at country level to build on the synergies and comparative competence of the individual agencies.

Denmark and Greenland would also welcome an inter-agency report on the situation of indigenous children in Africa, as suggested by UNICEF, and we encourage UNICEF and other relevant agencies to further develop guidance on the promotion of child resilience among indigenous peoples living in conflict-affected and fragile states.

Madame Chairperson,

According to OECD Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations, non-discrimination should be promoted as a basis for inclusive and stable societies. Indigenous peoples and in particular indigenous children and women are prone to violence and social risk factors in fragile countries, as they are to natural disasters, and to the effects of climate change. We welcome the guidance provided by UNICEF in the 2013 Guide on Actions for Children and Youth Resilience, which considers the knowledge of traditional and indigenous societies in Disaster Risk Reduction. We encourage UNICEF to include a reference to UNDRIP in the Reference Framework for Action.

In relation to UNICEF, Denmark and Greenland would also take this opportunity to commend the successful initiative of a five-year collaboration between the Greenland Government and UNICEF Denmark that has the goal of improving the views of values and attitudes toward children and children's rights. Activities include the holding of a children's summit, the establishment of a children's panel and a campaign with the title "the light is pointing at you."

Madame Chairperson,

We would also like to acknowledge the readiness of the Inter-Agency Support Group to contribute actively to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (September 2014), as well as to the post-2015 Development Agenda process. The annual meeting of the Support Group resulted in an agreement on a coherent framework for highly relevant technical resource papers, which will be useful also after the World Conference.

We appreciate the intention of the agencies to develop key messages on inequality, governance, gender equality and a human rights-based approach to development. This underlines the human rights aspect, which in our view should be used consistently.

The Support Group itself noted the absence of several agencies, and Denmark would like to join the request to the secretariat of the Permanent Forum to provide support in strengthening the membership of the Support Group by engaging new members as active participants.

Finally, Denmark and Greenland would like to encourage UNESCO to complete its policy on indigenous peoples' rights. The agency has a particular role to play not least in connection with World Heritage Sites, which in some cases owe their uniqueness to the efforts of indigenous peoples in preserving the areas for future generations.

Thank you for your attention