

20th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Statement by the Kingdom of Denmark

Delivered by Greenland representative

Agenda item 3 – Discussion on the theme “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”

Madame Chair,

I am pleased to speak on behalf of Denmark together with Greenland, which is where I am from. Since this is the first time that the Permanent Forum meets since the beginning of the 2020-2022 term, we congratulate all the 12 new members of the Forum on their election to the Permanent Forum. Also, I would like to congratulate you Madame on your reelection as chair.

We welcome the theme for this year's session on indigenous peoples' role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goal 16. We have read with interest the report of the International Expert Group's meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in November of 2019 dedicated to peace, justice and strong institutions, and agree with the general observation on the importance of respecting and safeguarding rights of indigenous peoples in ensuring lasting peace.

We would also like to thank former Member of the Permanent Forum Mr. Jens Dahl for the presentation on his study on Indigenous peoples' autonomies: experience and perspectives. This is a topic of great importance to the Kingdom of Denmark, considering the vast experience with autonomy in Greenland. Since 2009, Greenland has been self-governing in accordance with the Act on Greenland Self-Government.

Mr. Jens Dahl, based on your study on indigenous peoples' autonomies you recommend that the Permanent Forum should facilitate an inclusive process aimed at the development of guiding principles for the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights to autonomy and self-government.

Could you as well as the members of the Forum elaborate on what States and other actors can do to facilitate a process that is truly inclusive and ensuring ownership and commitment of UN member states?

Thank you – Qujanaq!