

Ambassador Steffen Smith

DENMARK

Human Rights Council 15th Session

Agenda Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur, Professor James Anaya

Mr. President,

Allow me, on behalf of the Danish ^{authorities} delegation, to congratulate the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people on his excellent work to date.

Denmark wishes to commend Professor Anaya on his effort to engage with and encourage cooperation and dialogue between states, indigenous peoples and other interested parties.

Together with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples you have established an effective cooperation and are carrying out your respective mandates in a complementary manner.

As part of this interactive Dialogue, we would like to hear Professor Anaya's thoughts on how to further improve the ability of the three UN mechanisms to supplement each other in promoting the implementation of the UN declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Professor Anaya,

Your work has been characterized by a remarkable level of commitment to fulfilling your important mandate and we are impressed with the many country visits you have conducted over the years.

Denmark would like to commend you also for dedicating substantial amounts of time to meeting in person with representatives of indigenous peoples, among others during sessions of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism, thus allowing them to have their voices heard.

We see this practice as a very important gesture and would like you to elaborate on this arrangement as well as on how

States may assist you in fulfilling this challenging part of your mandate.

Finally, Professor Anaya,

Your many studies serve an important purpose in contributing to the understanding of the rights contained in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Denmark appreciates this year's report on the question of corporate responsibility and commends your efforts to engage with private companies in order to discuss with them how they can respect international indigenous rights standards (in their activities.)

Could you elaborate a bit on how best to engage private companies in the protection and promotion of the rights indigenous peoples?

I thank you!