

Statement by Denmark

17<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Agenda item 4: Implementation of the six mandated areas of the UNPFII with reference  
to the UNDRIP

Indigenous women, youth and children. Thursday 19 April 2018

Chairperson, delegates and all Young people here today – especially representatives from the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples [UNDRIP] calls for particular attention to be paid in its implementation to the rights and special needs of Youth.

The declaration includes important wording on the rights of indigenous Youth. Both in relation to protection against discrimination, culturally appropriate education, decent jobs, and improvements of economic and social conditions.

The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples gave particular attention to - and stressed the rights of - indigenous Youth to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes.

Youth figures prominently in Denmark's strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action: The World 2030 - and in the implementation of the strategy through Denmark's development cooperation – Danida.

We recently reviewed our entire portfolio of development programmes with a view to inform us how to optimize our focus on Youth in present implementation and future programming.

Denmark is committed to work with partners to jointly enhance and improve efforts to ensure sustainable development – by and with Youth, and not only for Youth.

Young people represent a unique resource as valuable agents of change, as defenders of human rights, as entrepreneurs, and as active citizens.

Meaningful participation begins with willingness to listen to Youth – also indigenous Youth - and their specific concerns and priorities.

This is why the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus plays such an important role. Denmark remains impressed by the work and methodology of the Caucus.

Denmark is committed to deliver on the Youth agenda. In respect of Denmark's development cooperation, the following recent initiatives are worth noting:

- Denmark has increased its support to the United Nations Youth Delegate programme - and now has 6 Youth delegates.
- Denmark supports the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.
- Denmark has instituted a dedicated Global Youth Advisor position within its Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Denmark has increased its support to our national Youth Council and ensured the Council's inclusion in our Minister for Development Cooperation's advisory council on Development Policy.
- Denmark has allocated specific project and programme funds for Youth.

Denmark is running for a seat at the UN Human Rights Council for the period 2019-2021. As a member of the Council, we will work to integrate the human rights concerns of youth – as well as indigenous peoples - in the work of the Council. We hope for your support at the elections in October this year.

Thank you, Chairperson.