

**Thirteenth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**  
**New York, 12-23 May 2014**

**Statement by the Denmark and Greenland on agenda item 3:**

**Special theme: “Principles of good governance consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: articles 3 to 6 and 46”.**

We have read the “Study on an optional protocol to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples focusing on a voluntary mechanism” with great interest.

We would like to thank the members of the PFII Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorrough and Ms. Megan David for providing us with an excellent overview of various oversight mechanisms of human rights’ instruments and of the potential roles and functions of an optional protocol to the articles on “the right to self-determination”, “rights to lands, territories and resources” and “the right to free, prior, informed consent” of the UNDRIP.

The study refers to and reiterates the concerns raised by former Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Mr. James Anaya on the lack of recognition of the significant normative weight of the Declaration and its foundations in equality and human rights as factors that debilitate commitment to and action by States.

As governments for whom the UNDRIP constitutes the normative reference guide for policies on both domestic and international level, we share the very same concerns. We also agree that lands, territories and resources are at the center of most conflicts between states and indigenous peoples and sometimes even with so called third parties involved and that the right of self-determination is not easily understood as a right pertaining to indigenous peoples without discrimination.

However, we have some worries and would like to hear the views of Ms. Dorrough and Ms. Davies in particular, as to whether or not the establishment of such a protocol, that only deals with certain, albeit important, articles, could prove counterproductive and enhance the risk of harming the perception and recognition of the declaration as a whole – where its individual articles are interdependent and must be interpreted in relation to one another? In other words that such a protocol could lead to the sidetracking of principles, resources and attention?

Denmark and Greenland would like to express our unwavering commitment to work for the universal recognition of DRIP and as we are demonstrating today we will continue our participation in earnest and frank dialogues with PFII and the other indigenous peoples’ mandates on which tools and paths to choose that will enhance the recognition of the DRIP without risking the integrity of the declaration.