

Geneva, July 4th 2022

**15th Session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Agenda item 7: The International Decade of Indigenous Languages**

Intervention by the Kingdom of Denmark

[Check against delivery]

Mme. Chair,

I am pleased to speak on behalf of Denmark together with Greenland on this important agenda item, where we will share experiences from Greenland.

With the 2009 Act on Self Government in Greenland, the Greenlandic inuit language “Kalaallisut” became the official language of Greenland. Kalaallisut is spoken by the majority of the 56.000 people of Greenland, and as such it is strong. However, other languages also impact on Kalaallisut and its uses. Danish is still dominant in public administration and in education beyond primary school. And English impacts on the language of children and youth through platforms such as TIK TOK, You Tube etc.

These influences underline the importance of consistent efforts to preserve, promote and strengthen Kalaallisut. To support such efforts, a Language Council and a Place Names’ Committee have been established by law. The two bodies are served by the Language Secretariat.

I would like to highlight the work of the Language Secretariat in developing digital word analyzers, word generators and spell checkers applicable to Microsoft Office Word for Windows, Mac, iPad and online. Recently, the automatic language translator between Greenlandic and Danish “Nutserut “ became publicly available.

In addition to these current initiatives, the Government of Greenland is keenly aware of the need for continued efforts to preserve and develop Kalaallisut. This is why we are committed to engage internationally in the exchange of experiences, solutions and ideas throughout the Decade, so that we can keep our indigenous languages alive and vibrant.

Thank you.