

Human Rights Council
24th Session September 9-27 2013
Half-day discussion on indigenous peoples
Intervention by the Danish Delegation

Mr. President,

Let me first of all thank the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for her annual report on the rights of indigenous peoples.

We hope indigenous peoples will remain a key issue on the High Commissioner's agenda as we approach the upcoming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples next year. We look forward to working constructively with all stakeholders towards the adoption of an action-oriented and concise outcome document of the World Conference that may guide our future action.

We welcome the recent adoption by indigenous peoples of the outcome document of the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference held in Alta, Norway, and we support that the Alta outcome document obtains status as an official document of the coming session of the UN General Assembly.

Denmark also supports the proposal of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that the Human Rights Council considers the four themes identified in the Alta outcome document as the themes for the World Conference.

As regards the development theme and the post 2015 agenda, we generally support a single framework, defined around a single set of global goals, global in aspiration and coverage and universally applicable, while taking into account different national contexts, capacities and levels of development. Both States and indigenous peoples will have to engage actively in order to move the indigenous peoples' agenda forward in this context.

Mr. President,

My delegation would finally like to express our concern regarding the postponement of the adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its twelfth session. We regard the draft decisions and recommendations as timely and consistent with the developments that have taken place in recent years. We fear that a deferral of the adoption of the report may have an impeding effect on the valuable work of the Permanent Forum. We therefore strongly encourage States to work actively towards an adoption of the report without further delays.

Thank you, Mr. President.