

Statement by  
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**5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

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Madame Chairperson, Distinguished Members of the Permanent Forum

On behalf of Denmark and Greenland I wish to assure you of our support to the thrust of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. My delegation worked hard with others to ensure its adoption and we are pleased with the central role which has been established for the Permanent Forum in the implementation of the Decade.

In the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade partnership-building has been identified as an important area of action - and I quote: "All relevant actors are urged to establish, develop and promote strong partnerships among indigenous peoples, governments and intergovernmental bodies, agencies, funds, non-governmental organizations and the private sector during the Second Decade" - unquote (UN Doc. A/60/270, 6 (a) paragraph 67).

In order to assist in the implementation of the Decade, and with a view to supporting the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in identifying good practices of partnerships with indigenous peoples, the Greenland Home Rule Government and the Danish Government in partnership with the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) hosted a Permanent Forum workshop in Nuuk - the capital of Greenland - in February this year on partnership visions for the Second Decade.

I will not go into further details with the outcome of the workshop as a full report is contained in UN Doc. E/C.19/2006/4/Add.2 – one of the documents provided for the present agenda item of this session.

Rather, Madam Chairperson, I would like to once again mention the pre-sessional meeting of the Permanent Forum held in conjunction with the Nuuk workshop.

It is my understanding that such pre-sessional meetings, held in the various regions and in the homelands of indigenous peoples, is indeed seen as being very useful by the Permanent Forum and Secretariat.

First and foremost it gives the Permanent Forum a chance to experience the various regions. It gives the Forum a chance to meet between sessions to prepare for the big annual session and to establish a good working relationship within the Forum and between forum members. Last but not least, by hosting such inter-sessional preparatory meetings the host country removes a financial burden from the Forum budget itself, as pre-sessional meetings are not covered by the regular UN budget.

My delegation therefore strongly recommend to other interested parties, to provide such opportunities for the Permanent Forum to meet whenever practical.

Madame Chairperson,

My delegation is not convinced that this session has been the right place for discussions on the future of the Draft UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. However, since this has been the case, we wish to put on record our support for those many delegations and distinguished members of the Forum who have strongly recommended that the draft declaration will be sent to the General Assembly for its consideration and adoption as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention.