

**PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



Statement by

Elsebeth Tarp,
Senior Technical Advisor,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

**11th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous
Issues**

Statement by Denmark on agenda item 5:

**"Comprehensive dialogue with United Nations agencies
and funds"**

New York
Thursday 10 May 2012

Check against delivery

E-mail: nycmis@um.dk
<http://www.missionfnnewyork.um>

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

It is with great satisfaction, that Denmark once again participates in the annual discussions of the Permanent Forum. We would like to reiterate our strong support for the efforts by the Permanent Forum - since its creation – to advance the human rights of indigenous peoples. The Forum plays a highly important role in promoting respect for and full application of the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in accordance with article 42 of the Declaration, and UN agencies and bodies are instructed to follow up.

My colleague from Greenland has already congratulated you and the members of the bureau on your nomination. We would also like to thank the outgoing Chair for her enthusiasm and solid support to the work of the Permanent Forum.

Denmark has revised its strategy on international development cooperation, which will from now on be based on a Human Rights Based Approach to development. The strategy will build on the principles of non-discrimination, participation, transparency and accountability.

Much needs to be done and I am proud to say that the new Danish policy specifically mentions that DK will work toward increased recognition of indigenous peoples' collective and individual rights. This will be promoted in relevant forums, in the Human Rights Council, as well as in negotiations relating to environment and climate change. Denmark will continue its support towards well-functioning ecosystems, and in that context DK will promote the recognition of collective rights in our support to Natural Resources Management. We are keenly arguing for acceptance of the principles of Free Prior and Informed Consent in connection with the negotiations on REDD +, which many of you follow as well.

However, bilateral development cooperation programs can only achieve so much. The UN agencies, funds and programmes have a crucial role to play in advancing the implementation of the Declaration – not least through their presence at country level throughout the world. We have therefore been looking very much forward to the Report of the Inter-Agency Support

Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues from its 2011 meeting, as well as to the reports from the various UN agencies, which have contributed to the 11th session.

Overall we see substantial progress in the inter-UN dialogue on UNDRIP, and we recognize many constructive comments and recommendations presented by the Inter- Agency group.

We also welcome the establishment of the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership last year we encourage all States and stakeholders to support this important initiative.

Mr. Chair,

It appears that challenges are growing, or is it maybe because there is now much more attention to Indigenous Peoples' Rights in the agencies?

We acknowledge the role of UNPFA in coordinating the response from five organizations, as well as the contribution from WIPO. The report shows activities undertaken by the various agencies, but does not inform us whether they have a policy on indigenous peoples' rights, whether they have safeguards procedures that include respect for indigenous peoples' rights, or whether the principle of "free, prior and informed consent" is sought implemented.

We acknowledge the presentation of UNPFA and shall encourage UNFPA to include indigenous peoples' rights in the upcoming review of the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 2013.

UNDP has not delivered a report this year. Denmark, however, has observed that UNDP in the UNREDD program consistently promotes the dialogue with indigenous peoples, and strongly endorses the principle of "free, prior and informed consent". This is a good example also for bilateral donors in their support to climate change adaptation and mitigation programs.

Mr. Chair,

UNDP could play a much more pivotal role in mainstreaming indigenous peoples' rights, and in applying human rights based approach at country level. United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) provides an integrated United Nations system response to development challenges, and should be used as an instrument for promoting indigenous peoples' rights. It is not clear from the report to which degree these rights are taken into account as a priority theme in UNDAFs in relevant countries.

We would also like to see the UN agencies taking a much more active role in the country level dialogue on indigenous peoples' rights; by providing space for governments and indigenous peoples to meet, but also by providing space for bilateral donors and indigenous peoples, for us to learn from your rich experience.

We recognize that **ILO** made a comprehensive report to the 10th session. However, given the extremely important mandate of ILO, through its Convention 169, we would urge ILO to report regularly on the implementation/ratification processes, and on how ILO continues its dialogue with governments around the world. We are concerned that indigenous peoples' rights don't feature very prominently in the ILO "Decent Work" program. Denmark, having been strong supporter of ILO's work related to C 169 for many years, would like to see some results of this engagement.

UNICEF , with its strategic focus on equity, is one of the UN organizations, which can make a difference in applying the focus to include special focus on IPR. We encourage UNICEF to look at IP not as a vulnerable group, but as peoples in vulnerable situations, and groups with great potentials.

Mr. Chair, to conclude:

Complementary to the many valid observations and recommendations given by the 31 organizations forming the inter-agency support group, we find it important to reiterate two:

- i. The need for continuous collection of quality data through censuses and surveys in order to promote a dialogue for evidence based policies and programs. We acknowledge the work done by ILO on an integrated assessment framework, using indicators which can capture implementation.
- ii. The UN systems should promote country-based inclusive dialogues with indigenous peoples, involving national governments and also bilateral donors.

Thank you Mr. Chair