

Hr. Lars Volck Madsen

Item 5 general debate – Intervention by Denmark

Mr. President,

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made by Sweden on behalf of the EU and has the following additional remarks.

As a general remark my delegation would like to highlight the importance of state cooperation with the international human rights bodies and mechanisms. Their effective and independent functioning is crucial to the protection of human rights everywhere. We note with concern that these bodies and mechanisms - including treaty bodies and special procedures – are often not receiving sufficient cooperation from states.

We therefore call upon all States to issue standing invitations and to cooperate fully and in good faith with the independent international and regional preventive and monitoring institutions. States need to grant them unconditional and unhindered access to institutions and facilities of their choice, and they must have unrestricted possibility to interview any person of their choice in private.

Mr. President,

Let me now turn to some specific comments relating to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Expert Mechanism has had an impressive start. The experts have shown efficiency, quality and political sensitivity in conducting their work. These qualities will be essential over the next years as well if the Mechanism's expert advice shall have an impact.

A major challenge however concerns follow-up to the studies of the Mechanism. This is not primarily the responsibility of the Mechanism.

- On the national level States must ensure that the studies are sent to the relevant authorities to be taken into account on the ground,
- Likewise the OHCHR should make sure the expert advice is known to the relevant people both in Headquarters and in the field,
- Special Rapporteurs and Treaty Bodies should draw upon the studies where relevant,
- Finally, Mr. President, the Human Rights Council as such should use the reports in our debates and deliberations.

Thank you.