

**PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK**

Geneva

doCip

Case postale 435  
36, Rue de Moillebeau  
1211 Geneva 19  
Phone: (+41 22) 918 00 40  
Fax: (+41 22) 918 00 66  
Telex: 414166 Dan CH  
mission.denmark@ties.itu.int



WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS  
SIXTEENTH SESSION  
28 JULY - 1 AUGUST 1998

AGENDA ITEM 10

CONSIDERATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
A PERMANENT FORUM FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

STATEMENT BY MS. ANNE MARIE SLOTH CARLSEN  
ON BEHALF OF  
DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, ICELAND, NORWAY, SWEDEN,  
GREENLAND HOME RULE GOVERNMENT,  
AND THE NORDIC SAAMI PARLIAMENTS

GENEVA, 30 JULY 1998

Check against delivery

WGIP 98 Gov/EUR - DNK/2

Thank you, Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Greenland Home Rule Government, and the Saami Parliaments of Finland, Norway and Sweden, I would like to say a few words about agenda item 10 - Consideration of the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people.

In resolution 1998/20, the 54th Session of the Commission on Human Rights decided to establish an open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group to elaborate and to consider further proposals for the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system. The ad hoc working group is scheduled to meet for five working days in February 1999.

In order to prepare for this meeting, ~~the~~ we wish to encourage all indigenous peoples and states to participate actively in the exchange of ideas and aspirations with respect to the role, function, composition and placement of the permanent forum. Several proposals and ideas have already been put forward. These are made available in documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/7 and E/CN.4/1998/11 and addenda.

From our point of view, it is of particular importance that indigenous peoples take any opportunity that may arise locally, regionally, and internationally to discuss the modalities for the permanent forum amongst themselves to prepare for the February meeting.

According to resolution 1998/20, non-governmental organisations and indigenous representatives who have been accredited to the inter-sessional working group on the draft declaration, automatically have the right to participate in the ad hoc working group.

However, in order to ensure the widest possible participation in the ad hoc working group - and in the working group on the draft declaration - it is important that applications from indigenous representatives and organisations are processed flexibly and with no delay.

Furthermore, it is important that states having indigenous populations take effective measures to inform these populations about the two working groups and the procedures for accreditation.

In closing, let me reiterate the importance of consultations - in particular - among indigenous peoples as a means of preparation for the ad hoc working group on the permanent forum in February.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.