

**Twelfth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
New York, 20-31 May 2013**

**Statement by the Danish Delegation on agenda item 5:  
Comprehensive dialogue with United Nations agencies and funds**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Significant results have been achieved on the institutional level to further the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples. As a result of years of dedicated effort, the UNDRIP was adopted in 2007 and the Expert Mechanism, the Permanent Forum and a Special Rapporteur have been put in place.

It is in this light a paradox that a number of UN-agencies appear at the same time to have downgraded their prioritization and focus on indigenous issues. This was one of the daunting conclusions in a recent review commissioned by Denmark on how indigenous peoples rights are operationalized in four selected UN-agencies (UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNFPA and UNICEF).

We welcome the review of the World Bank operational policies undertaken by member of the Permanent Form, Ms. Eva Biadet, and we look forward to receiving the official response from the World Bank to this review.

Denmark strongly urges the World Bank to bring the standards in the Indigenous Peoples Policy in full consistency with the UNDRIP, and thus to follow other multilateral development banks and the IFC. We attach in particular great importance to the recommendation on the need for the World Bank to adopt in its updated Indigenous Peoples Policy, the standard of free, prior and informed consent and in general to institutionalize and operationalize a human rights agenda.

We do of course also recognize that a number of institutions and processes within the United Nations system - as well as the World Bank - have done important work to promote the rights of indigenous peoples. However, as mentioned in the Report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Anaya, as submitted to the United Nations General Assembly during its 67th session, greater efforts need to be made to maximize action throughout the United Nations system to promote those rights and ensure that all actions within the system which affect indigenous peoples are in harmony with their rights.

We therefore strongly encourage the Permanent Forum to continue to monitor closely the implementation of the recommendations addressed to the UN-agencies.

The OHCHR has a key role to play as a leading institution in promoting and protecting human rights in the UN system. In order to assist the Office in fulfilling its mandate, including its activities that contribute to the realization for the provisions of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Denmark has decided to double our voluntary contribution to OHCHR, now amounting to 5.4 mil. USD a year.

OHCHR has also been co-chairing UNIPP which we hope will contribute to strengthening the capacity of UN Country Teams to integrate the rights of indigenous peoples in their programmes.

We find it important that UNIPP goes beyond the five UN partners and continue to engage more UN agencies. This year's review on the follow up on the recommendations of the Permanent Forum related to health issues indicates need for stronger engagement with the WHO.

Thank you for your attention.