

## **Country: Denmark and Greenland**

The report of the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues provides a number of recommendations within its mandated areas, some of which are addressed to Member States. Governments are invited to complete a short questionnaire on any action taken or planned in response to the Permanent Forum's recommendations. All the questionnaire responses from Governments will be compiled into one report for the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum.

### **Question 1:**

Recommendation 25: On 2 May 2011, Denmark was examined by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council.

Greenland participated fully in the UPR process including conducting its own public hearings in the capital of Greenland, Nuuk.

Recommendation 38: On 10 May 2011, Greenland - in cooperation with Denmark - responded to a questionnaire on natural resource extraction and development projects on or near indigenous territories submitted by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Recommendation 43: See reporting to the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the UNPFII (E/C.19/2009/4/Add.4)

Recommendation 47: The Government of Greenland in cooperation with Inuit Circumpolar Council published translations of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into Greenlandic and Danish. The Parliament of Greenland regularly debates the implementation of the UNDRIP in its sessions either as a whole or with regards to specific provisions.

Recommendation 49: The Governments of Denmark and Greenland reports to the UNPFII and other mechanisms of the UN dealing with indigenous peoples on a regular basis through statements and written reports.

Recommendation 50: Members of the Parliament of Greenland participates in the sessions of the UNPFII on a regular basis and also participated in meetings of indigenous parliamentarians during the 10<sup>th</sup> session.

Recommendation 83: See recommendation 47

Recommendation 89: Denmark and Greenland hosted the first pre-sessional meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held outside New York in Nuuk in February 2006.

Recommendation 90-93: Denmark contributes to the Trust Fund of the Permanent Forum with DKK 4 million for the 2010-2013 programme of the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues.

Recommendation 116: Ratification of the Convention and Protocol formed part of the recommendations of the UPR of Denmark and was specifically aimed at Greenland. The recommendations were accepted and ratification process is expected to commence shortly.

Recommendation 123: Denmark co-sponsor of UNGA resolutions regarding World Conference on Indigenous People + active participants in and co-host of consultation meeting (luncheon) in New York in November 2011.

Recommendation 127: See above. The Government of Greenland together with the Sami Parliaments of Norway and International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) co-organized an Open-ended Indigenous Peoples' Brainstorming Meeting on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark, 13-14 January 2012

Recommendation 134: There is a close collaboration between the Danish Government and the Government of Greenland on the Rio+20 process and it is expected that several ministers from the Government of Greenland will be part of the Danish delegation at the conference in 2012.

### **Question 2**

The protection of indigenous peoples' rights and the Millennium Development Goals form an integral part of the Danish development strategy.

### **Question 3**

(a) + (b) See previous reports on the Greenland Home Rule Government and the introduction of the Greenland Self-Government (E/C.19/2009/4/Add.4).

(c) Denmark in cooperation with Greenland co-sponsored the resolutions on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in both the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

Denmark participated + co-sponsored consultation meeting on World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in New York in November 2011.

The Government of Greenland together with the Sami Parliaments of Norway and International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) co-organized an Open-ended Indigenous Peoples' Brainstorming Meeting on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark, 13-14 January 2012. (See Question 1 Recommendation 127).

### **Question 4**

The protection of indigenous peoples' rights is a continuous priority for Denmark and Greenland. Over the years many resources has been put into especially the work at UN level and it is pleased to see that significant results have been achieved.

The Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the establishment of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous are very tangible results and provide us with important tools in order to achieve the objectives of the second decade, not least in order to promote "full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decisions which directly or indirectly affect their lifestyles, traditional lands and territories, their cultural integrity as indigenous peoples with collective rights or any other aspect of their lives, considering the principle of free, prior and informed consent".

With the financial support for organisations like UNIPPA, ICC, and IWGIA the Danish Government seeks also to contribute to the work for indigenous peoples' rights on the ground.

**Question 5:**

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**Question 6**

The Government of Denmark and Greenland, respectively, are generally interested in and supportive of the work of the Forum. Even though the Government of Greenland is a public rather than an indigenous self-government, the members of both Government and Parliament of Greenland are all of Inuit descent.

**Question 7**

There are guidelines on the Danish policy on indigenous issues, including 'Strategy for Danish Support to Indigenous Peoples' (additionally the review of the strategy from 2011), 'Kingdom of Denmark Strategy for the Arctic 2011-2020', and 'How To Note on Indigenous Peoples'.

One of the first acts of the Government of Greenland after the introduction of Self-Government was to introduce legislation aimed at the retention of the Indigenous language – Greenlandic (Kalaallisut).

Support for the only Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPO) in the Kingdom of Denmark, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), forms a permanent part of the fiscal budget in Greenland. The Parliament of Greenland has one seat on the Greenland delegation to ICC.

**Question 8**

International Circumpolar Youth Council, ICYC has a seat on the Greenland delegation to ICC. The Inuit youth organization occasionally cooperates with government departments on joint youth projects.

**Question 9**

Arnat Peqatigiit Kattuffiat, the oldest nation wide women's association in Greenland, was instrumental in establishing the Arnat Ilinniarfiat – women's highschool - as part of the 50 year old Knud Rasmussen folk high school. The school focused on preservation of traditional knowledge and Inuit handicraft. Arnat Ilinniarfiat is funded by the Government of Greenland.

Several women's groups have - over time - targeted specific issues related to the protection of vulnerable women and children and the promotion of the rights of women and children. Some of these initiatives are now partly or fully funded by government.

Recent government initiatives are focusing on capacity building and empowerment of children and families.

**Question 10**

No.

**Question 11**

No.

**Question 12**

Active participation in UN, Arctic Council, Nordic Council of Ministers, EU and other meetings and conferences on Indigenous rights. The Premier of Greenland and Cabinet ministers promote Indigenous rights when participating in international meetings.

Close cooperation between Government and Parliament of Greenland and the ICC.