

**Report for the 12th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
May 2013
Denmark and Greenland**

Questionnaire to Governments

The report of the 11th 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.

The Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invites Governments to complete the attached 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 twelfth session of the Permanent Forum.

Country: Denmark and Greenland

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Question 1:

Briefly state what recommendations from the Eleventh Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) or recommendations from previous sessions (not addressed in previous reports) were addressed by your Government.

Reference is made to the answers below. Few of the recommendations stemming from the 11th Sessions are directly applicable to the context of Denmark/Greenland.

Question 2:

Please provide a brief account of some of your Governments' efforts regarding indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals?

In May 2012, the Danish Parliament unanimously endorsed the new strategy for Denmark's development cooperation, "The Right to a Better Life". The new strategy has two interdependent aims: to reduce poverty while at the same time assisting people in realizing their right to a better life. In order to achieve this, Denmark will employ a human rights based approach to development.

The strategy implies that UN human rights conventions, standards, norms and instruments – such as UNDRIP - should serve as the compass that guides the political dialogue, concrete development interventions and partnerships. The protection of indigenous peoples' rights and the Millennium Development Goals form as such an integral part of the Danish development strategy.

The examples below provide information on some of the Danish efforts related to indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals.

Primary education (goal 2): Through the Danish support to the education sectors in Nicaragua and Bolivia positive results have been achieved through targeted activities related to intercultural bilingual education. An example from a recent review in Bolivia shows that the drafting of the new education law was highly influenced by the Danish funded "Consejos Educativos de Pueblos Originarios" (CEPOS) and it provided them the opportunity to strengthen the focus on indigenous values and visions within the education system. The establishment in 2012 of the Plurinational Institute for Language and Cultures is also a result of CEPOS' advocacy. CEPOS has also contributed to the formulation of the regionalised curriculum. The formulation of regionalised curriculum has been praised for its inclusive and participatory character.

Also in Guatemala the development cooperation assisted in achieving professionalization on master level of indigenous bilingual and intercultural teachers in the Guatemalan highlands.

Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women (goal 3): Through the environmental programme in Nicaragua, the support has achieved significant results related to empowerment of indigenous women, who through training and awareness activities are becoming aware of their crucial role in sustainable forest management, and also gaining confidence to raise their voice in various forums. In Guatemala, racism and discrimination issues have been addressed by indigenous women's networks in Sololá, and their advocacy towards judicial and human rights authorities.

Question 3:

At its twelfth session in 2013, UNPFII will review its recommendations in relation to (a) Health; (b) Education; (c) Culture. The provisional agenda for the twelfth session also includes Half-day discussion on the African region; Discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples; and Discussions on a number of ongoing priorities and themes. Briefly state how your Government deals with these issues in regards to indigenous peoples?

Inuit in Greenland are Danish citizens. Danish citizens moving from Greenland to Denmark have (in general) the same rights and obligations as other Danish citizens. Thus, when staying in Denmark, Greenlanders are covered by *inter alia* the Danish Act on Social Service in all aspects.

The Greenland Self-Government has taken over the responsibility in all domestic areas, including health care and education. Greenland has a modern and well-functioning welfare system providing free health care and education. The Arctic countries are facing some common challenges in health and are working together to find solutions, exchange knowledge and share experiences.

For further information please see previous reports on the Greenland Home Rule Government and the introduction of the Greenland Self-Government (E/C.19/2009/4/Add.4).

Greenland and Denmark participates actively in supporting preparations and in making contributions for/to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP). Denmark and Greenland is actively involved at political and diplomatic levels on supporting the preparations for the WCIP, including in securing optimal modalities for the WCIP. Furthermore, The Government of Greenland and Denmark supports the participation of indigenous peoples own preparatory processes, e.g. through hosting contributions to the first indigenous brainstorming meeting on WCIP in Copenhagen in January 2012, which led to the establishment of the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group and the appointment of the indigenous co-facilitator and financial contributions to the Arctic Regional meeting on WCIP held in Nuuk of October 2012. Financial contributions to ICC (Inuit Circumpolar Council) as well as the indigenous support organization IWGIA have been made/pledged and will amongst others enable the holding of the global indigenous peoples' conference on the WCIP to be held in Alta, Norway in June 2013.

Question 4:

Please provide a brief account of some of your Government's progress made towards its achievement of the goals and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

In line with previous recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed to Member States, the Danish government offers financial support to the United Nations Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues. In accordance with the Government's priorities, Denmark decided to more than double its support to the UN Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues in the four-year period from 2010 to 2013. The main part of the contribution is dedicated to the small grants programme under the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples in support of indigenous peoples' organizations to promote, support and implement the objectives of the Decade.

Denmark and Greenland jointly promote and work actively for implementing of the objectives of the Second International Decade, in particular the goal of ensuring participating of indigenous peoples in decision making process. Concretely Denmark and Greenland ensured that due note was taken of the report by the UN Secretary General (A/HRC/21/24) in the General Assembly Resolution on Indigenous Peoples' Rights adopted by the Third Committee during the 67th Session of the General Assembly.

Question 5:

What are some of the obstacles your government has encountered in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum?

The recommendations of the UNPFII are numerous and can be difficult to implement as the situation of indigenous peoples is context driven. Moreover, some recommendations have a broad

scope and may require significant measures such as legislative changes. An example is recommendation 8 in the report of the 11th Session regarding recommendation to include the doctrine of discovery/dispossession in the education curricula. Finally, many recommendations are not or not fully applicable in the context of Denmark/Greenland.

Question 6:

What are some of the factors that facilitate your government's implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum?

The close dialog and constructive cooperation between Greenland and Denmark and the ICC, including in the context of the Arctic Council, as well as the national framework of guidelines and strategies pertaining to indigenous peoples (please see Question 7 below) that provide a basis for interventions.

Question 7:

Please list specific laws and/or policies that address indigenous peoples' issues in your country?

As reported previously to the UNPFII, Greenland obtained Self-Government in 2009. For further information please see previous reports on the Greenland Home Rule Government and the introduction of the Greenland Self-Government (E/C.19/2009/4/Add.4).

Inuit in Greenland are Danish citizens, and as Danish citizens moving from Greenland to Denmark they enjoy (in general) the same rights and obligations as other Danish citizens. There are guidelines on the Danish policy on indigenous issues, including a Strategy for Danish Support to Indigenous Peoples (2004) as well a technical guide for civil servants working with development cooperation ('How To Note on Indigenous Peoples', 2011). Moreover, the 'Kingdom of Denmark Strategy for the Arctic 2011– 2020' includes a number of strategic goals that aim at ensuring the rights of the Arctic indigenous peoples.

Question 8:

Does your Government have a particular focus, programmes, laws and institutions to address indigenous children and youth in your country? If "Yes", please provide a brief description of these programmes.

Please see Question 7 above. A minority of the Greenlanders living in Denmark are socially vulnerable. Therefore, the Government plans to put forward a strategy which strengthens the efforts towards vulnerable Greenlanders and their children. As regards the initiatives in Greenland related to the protection of vulnerable women and children and the promotion of their rights reference is made to the report of Denmark and Greenland to the 11th session of the UNPFII.

Question 9:

Does your Government have a particular focus, programmes, laws and institutions to address indigenous women in your country? If "Yes", please provide a brief description of these programmes.

Please see Question 8 above.

Question 10:

Does your Government have a national institution (ministry, department, ombudsman, etc.) on indigenous peoples' issues? If "Yes", please provide a brief summary of the focus and activities of the institution as well as the names and contact details of the focal point on indigenous peoples' issues?

No, but both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Institute for Human Rights have a focus on the rights on indigenous peoples, as does the Arctic Council. In the future, The Danish Institute for Human Rights will in this annual status report on human rights in Denmark include a chapter focusing on the human rights situation in Greenland.

On 15 November 2012, the Parliament of Greenland adopted an Act to establish a Greenland Council for Human Rights which entered into force on 1 January 2013. The independent council will work together with the Danish Institute for Human Rights (NHRI) to promote and protect human rights in Greenland. The Council will appoint a member of the board of the Danish Institute for Human Rights to ensure close cooperation between the two institutions.

Question 11:

Does your Government have any formal or ad hoc capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for civil servants? If "Yes", please provide a brief description of these programmes.

No. However, a technical guide on indigenous peoples' rights produced in 2011 is available for civil servants and others.

The Government of Greenland is in the process of planning a seminar for civil servants in Danish ministries to be provided at the Greenland Representation in Copenhagen.

Question 12:

Please list information on how your Government currently promotes and/or implements the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Greenland and Denmark have for years worked closely together to promote indigenous peoples' rights. Denmark's first strategy in 2004 to support indigenous peoples was prepared based on a Danish / Greenland initiative. The establishment of the Self-Government arrangement for Greenland in 2009 is in itself an illustration of Denmark's implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 2011, a review of this strategy review concluded that the Danish/Greenland cooperation has led to groundbreaking institutional results and to improved living conditions for indigenous peoples.

Denmark and Greenland have historically been and are still active in a number of relevant international forums where indigenous peoples' rights are discussed. Denmark and Greenland participates for instance actively in negotiations in the UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly Third Committee on resolutions relating to indigenous peoples' rights. During UNGA67 Denmark and Greenland ensured for instance that reference was made to UNDRIP in the Resolution on the Implementation on the Convention on Biological Diversity and co-sponsored the Resolution on Indigenous Peoples Rights.

As part of the international efforts to promote UNDRIP, the Danish Agency for Culture, the Government of Greenland and IWGIA organized in September 2012 an International Expert Workshop on the World Heritage Convention and Indigenous Peoples. The workshop was held in

Copenhagen as part of the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, celebrated by UNESCO under the theme “World Heritage and Sustainable Development: The Role of Local Communities”. The workshop resulted in a “Call to Action” and other supporting documents, including a list of cases/World Heritage sites that were discussed during the meeting, a document containing related recommendations from EMRIP, UNPFII, etc., that was discussed during the workshop and proposed amendments to the Operational Guidelines on free, prior and informed consent, in line with what was agreed during the workshop.

As part of the development cooperation, Denmark has over the last 20 years Denmark provided approx. 70 mio. USD to improve human rights and good governance in Central America. Denmark will continue its support and has in 2012 approved a new multiyear development program to improve human rights in the region, in particular those rights of indigenous peoples, women and human rights defenders. The support will be channeled through the ILO, the Inter-American Court and Commission and an international human rights NGO. The financial support to organizations such as UNIPP, ICC (the only IPO in the Kingdom of Denmark) and IWGIA also contributes to the practical implementation of indigenous peoples’ rights.