Til besvarelsen den 24. februar

Denmark + Government of Greenland:

**Q 1+2**

On 21 June 2009, the Act on Greenland Self-Government came into force replacing the former Greenland Home Rule Act of 29 November 1978 and on 7 October 2009 Denmark submitted a notification on the Act to the Secretary-General of The United Nations, followed by a report to the General Assembly under agenda item 39 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/64/676) during its sixty-fourth session.

The Act in its preamble recognises that the people of Greenland is a people pursuant to international law with the right to self-determination. The Act *provides* for Greenland to assume a number of new fields of responsibility and thus opens for expansion of further competences and responsibilities to Greenland; *introduces* new arrangements regarding respectively mineral resource activities in Greenland and the economic relations between Denmark and Greenland; *describes* the cooperation between Denmark and Greenland regarding foreign policy and incorporates the authorisation arrangement from 2005; *recognises* the Greenlandic language as the official language in Greenland; *describes* Greenland’s access to independence.

For a general description of the Greenland Self-Government arrangement, reference is made to the report from Denmark and Greenland to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Eighth Session (E/C.19/2009/4/Add.4) and to the General Assembly (A/64/676).

**Q3**

A recent submission to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for the progress report on the study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making (A/HRC/15/35) stated that the Government of Greenland is a democratically elected public government where currently all members of the Parliament of Greenland (Inatsisartut) (31) and Government of Greenland (Naalakkersuisut) (9) are of Inuit descent.

Inuit, the indigenous people of Greenland, constitutes a majority of 88 percent, Danish and others make up12 percent of the total population according to Statistics Greenland.

**Q4:**

A number of international human rights instruments have been published in Greenlandic: including the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights; the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; the ILO Convention No.169, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). UNDRIP is available in Greenlandic and Danish on the official web site of the Government of Greenland and at the UNPFII web site.

The Government of Greenland strongly endorses the UNDRIP. While the establishment of the Self-Government arrangement is an illustration of Denmark’s de facto implementation of UNDRIP vis-à-vis Greenland, the Government of Greenland is striving to implement important provisions of the UNDRIP in its day to day work, even though the government is categorized as a public rather that an indigenous government.

The UNDRIP often form the basis for debates in the public and media as well as in the Parliament of Greenland which at an early stage endorsed the UNDRIP. At its latest session the Parliament of Greenland called for enhanced efforts in the dissemination of the UNDRIP to the public and in educational facilities throughout Greenland.

**Q5**

The Government of Greenland is a democratically elected public government and not an indigenous government (Q4). This requires a balanced approach in which consideration is given to all parties without compromising the fact that 88 percent of the population are of Inuit descent.

**Q6**

When determining the appropriate measures to facilitate the full and effective implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination it is important to ensure maximum transparency and mutual respect between governments and indigenous peoples.

Information sharing by all parties on good (best) practices with respect to implementation, as it takes place in international forums, is extremely valuable.