

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1999 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

WTO Support for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Communication from Denmark

The following communication, dated 25 October 1999, has been received by the Director-General from the Permanent Representative of Denmark.

1. As you may know, we now find ourselves in the middle of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In this connection the UN General Assembly during its 53rd session last year passed a resolution (No. 53/29), according to which governments are encouraged to support the Decade in various ways and international organizations, *inter alia*, are invited to give increased priority to improving the conditions of indigenous people within their areas of competence.

2. Against this background, my authorities have asked me, as also representing Greenland (which is not part of the EU), to propose the addition of the following wording at an appropriate place under the heading "Objectives and Priorities" of the draft Ministerial text for the 1999 Ministerial Conference:

"We recognize the legitimate concerns of indigenous populations and commit ourselves to examine and develop ways of integrating these populations into the international trade system, thereby furthering their economic development."
