

Agenda item 8, Panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in post-conflict situations and peace negotiations, agreements, and accords

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My name is Mikaali, I am an OHCHR Indigenous Fellow and an academic student of the University of Copenhagen, I speak as in my own capacity as an Inuk from Inuit Nunaat (also known as Greenland/Kalaallit Nunaat)

Today, I want to address an issue impacting the self-determination of the Inuit community in Inuit Nunaat - affecting Art. 1, 6, 13, 33 of the UNDRIP especially in the part that we Inuit call Nunarput (known as 'greenland/kalaallit nunaat').

I recommend and urge the Kingdom of Denmark and the UN to acknowledge, recognize and respect the self-determination on self-identification of Indigenous Peoples through a distinct passports for us, it is vital for our empowerment, cultural preservation and revitalizing our language as distinct peoples. Give us the opportunity to choose to have our Inuk-national identity written in our passports. It's essential for all of us to support these efforts and acknowledge the profound significance of names and identities in the struggle for Indigenous rights and decolonization. We therefore also recommend that States and entities fully implement and work forward to comply with the UNDRIP and ILO169 including other documents that defines anything about the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Not implementing these human rights violates our rights as Indigenous Peoples.

The lack of recognition of Indigenous Peoples' National Identity is an issue, I hereby address my unofficial Inuk-national identity as an example. Denmark and Kalaallit Nunaat do not recognise our Inuk-nationality. They do not document it and accept out Inuit identity in documents when it is requested. This is an obstacle to fully obtain our rights as distinct peoples.

As an example the Faroese people that are danish nationals have their national identity as a people recognised by the Kingdom of Denmark written in their passports along with the danish as 'danish-faroese', I invite governments of Greenland and Denmark to do the same for Inuit

– in contrary Inuit don't exist and are completely assimilated into danish nationality.

I am Inuk, I like fellow Inuit experience the erasure of my Inuk-identity. Our elders keep telling me that their grandparents said that they are Inuit and never used the term "Kalaallit," and "Greenlander" that are today often used to refer to the people of Greenland's end even as the Our Indigenous Inuk identity is not considered distinct as it conflates with the territorial or local community called 'The Greenlandic People/Kalaallit' in which is acknowledged in the Greenland self-rule act and is recognized as a people since 2009, this has deep-rooted implications tied to colonization. Historically, these terms emerged in the 1900's during Danish colonial-rule and aimed to create a new national identity calling us "the greenlandic people" defined in the Self-Rule act of 2009 as a people that according to Denmark the greenlandic people are everyone living in the territory – this undermines our Indigenous National Identity. It has led to the overshadowing of the broader Inuit identity, which encompasses not only Greenland (Denmark) but also the Arctic regions of Canada, Alaska, and Russia.

We Inuit mean that "Kalaallit"/"Greenlanders" fails to fully represent our unique cultural and identity as Indigenous People. This erasure transforming us to a new people calling us "kalaallit"/"greenlanders" is seen as a form of cultural domination, where colonial language and classifications have been imposed as the term "kalaallit" means weaklings, miserable and wretch just like the derogatory term 'eskimo has been used as the n-word, where our identity has been suppressed by stating that there is no future in being Inuk and that there is a future of becoming a "greenlander" (which is the self-identified identity of a non-indigenous people) diminishing the Inuit's self-identification. The debate over these terms highlights the broader issues of cultural assimilation and loss of Indigenous languages and traditions.

In our Inuit communities in the Arctic we are actively reclaiming our identity as part of a larger decolonization movement. This movement seeks to address the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization, emphasizing the importance of cultural survival and self-determination. Efforts to prioritize Inuk and Inuit over colonial terms are crucial for revitalizing and to preserving our community's heritage and ensuring our voices are heard and respected.

According to the UNDRIP Article 6 we as Indigenous Peoples have an individual right to nationality and Article 13 the right to revitalize the designation of our community including Article 33 the right to determine our own identity and membership that does not impair our right to citizenship in the States as indigenous individuals.

Qujanaq - Thank you.