

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Contribution to the Introductory Statement
On behalf of the Greenland Home Rule government
Geneva, September 26, 2005

Mister Chair and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Greenland Home Rule Government I would first of all like to thank the Chair and the Committee for their keen interest in the rights of the child with respect to Greenland. I would also like to thank the Government of Denmark for this opportunity to briefly update you on the latest development in Greenland.

From Denmark's third periodic report, section X Greenland, it appears that there has been comprehensive reforms within the area of children and youth, - particular regarding school and education, the social area as well as the health and prevention. Furthermore a multiplicity of activities has been initiated and implemented in the period of the report and until today, to ensure the rights of the child in Greenland.

The above mentioned reforms are characterised by the explicit use of the convention on the rights of the child in the legislation. Hereby The Home Rule Government of Greenland and the Parliament of Greenland have emphasized the willingness of Greenland to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Regarding the implementation of Atuarfitsialak / The Good School is well under way. The new provisions of the legislation on the "folkeskolen" with regard to aims, structures etc. as well as a comprehensive courses and educational activity for teachers in the "folkeskolen" are being implemented at present. Hereby the "folkeskolen" has a new foundation and new guidelines for education of children and young persons. The aim of the "folkeskolen" is to contribute to the development of the knowledge, skills and personal and social development of children and young persons. These efforts to ensure the basic knowledge and skills of children can reduce the high drop-out rate at the qualifying educations.

Regarding social issues the Landsting Regulations on assistance to children and young persons from 2003, is a very important instrument for an early intervention with regard to children and young persons who are in need of assistance from the authorities. Starting from the needs of the child decisions are made on the required assistance. Most children in Greenland live a safe and good life in families that function well. At the same time it is a fact, that a smaller group of children are exposed to neglect or abuse. There are many efforts locally and nationally to help this group of children. Recently, the Home Rule Government has taken the initiative for an information campaign. The drafting and implementation of the campaign awaits the coming election to the Home Rule Parliament in November 2005.

Within the health and prevention area a public health programme has started at the end of 2004; this programme is intended to frame the measures for improving the health of the population in the coming years, including the health of children and young persons. A steering committee has been set up which has elected 4 focus areas: alcohol and violence, food and physical activity, sexual life, and smoking; furthermore a working party for each focus area has been set up, and also a working party for monitoring, evaluation and research. The public health programme is to be developed and implemented during the coming years, and will be evaluated in 2012.

Thank you.

