

CONFERENCE PROGRAM
Defending the Defenders
5-6 September 2018
Eigtveds Pakhus, Asiatisk Plads 2, 1448 Copenhagen, Denmark

5 September 2018	
Time	Programme
10:00-10:30	Welcome by organisers Minister Eva Kjer Hansen, Minister for Fishery, Equality and Nordic Cooperation & Chair of IWGIA Knud Vilby will welcome the participants and introduce the conference.
<i>High level opening session</i>	
10:30 – 10:45	Opening remarks by high level representatives from the UN and Denmark
10:45 - 11:00	Musical interlude from the indigenous world
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee break
<i>Voices from Indigenous Human Rights Defenders</i>	
11:15 – 13:00	Defending indigenous rights – the perspective of indigenous human rights defenders Three indigenous human rights defenders from Tanzania, Peru and Bangladesh will share their experience of being personally targeted while defending the rights of their community. They will tell their stories of being criminalized, how their land and natural resources have been taken away or been destroyed, but also how they have been able to access justice and remedies.
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
<i>Defending the Defenders: Do we need new alliances?</i>	
14:00 – 16:30	Can the private sector be an ally for indigenous human rights defenders? – a panel debate Experts from relevant UN mechanisms, international corporations and organisations working on business and human rights issues will debate how the private sector can work together with indigenous peoples and civil society organizations to ensure that no human rights violations are committed when they invest and operate on indigenous peoples' land.
	How can the State improve its efforts to protect indigenous human rights defenders? A panel debate What is the responsibilities of the State as primary duty bearers in the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples' rights and what role can politicians and decision makers play to keep the State accountable? In this session, panellists from ministry and parliament in Denmark, relevant UN mechanisms and international human rights organization will share their view on the State duties when it comes to indigenous human rights defenders.
16:30-17:00	Perspectives for tomorrow IWGIA and one indigenous human rights defender will reflect on the day's discussion– they will present the highlights of the day and what we should take forward to discussion on Day Two of our conference.
6 September 2018	
<i>Plenary opening of Day Two</i>	
9:00 - 10:00	Indigenous Human Rights defenders – three testimonies from the frontline Three indigenous human rights defenders from Tanzania, Bolivia and The Philippines will introduce the following parallel sessions by illustrating how they have personally experienced criminalization, conflict over their land and resources and how they could access justice.
<i>Parallel sessions: Discussions on the main challenges and way forward</i>	
10:00 – 12:00	CRIMINALISATION One of the most serious shortcomings in human rights protection is the trend towards the use of legislation and the justice system to penalize and criminalize indigenous peoples' non-violent protests. A key issue to address is the stigmatization and criminalisation of human rights defenders in developing countries by outlawing their activities through responses such as illegal surveillance, arbitrary arrests, travel bans, threats, dispossession and killings. During this session, findings from UN mechanism, regional human rights mechanism as well as concrete examples from the ground will be presented and discussed in plenary. The participants will have to come with three concrete recommendations on how

	to address this negative trend.
	<p>LAND RIGHTS</p> <p>The current global land rush and the intensification of the exploitation of natural resources are pushing into indigenous peoples' lands and territories and rapidly dispossessing them of their primary source of livelihood. A key issue to address is how the changing nature of land grabbing in developing countries leads to increasing conflicts, including forced evictions, internal displacement, destruction of livelihoods, and loss of cultural identity, with a special focus on the gender dimensions and impact on indigenous youth and the role of the private sector in this. During this session, findings from UN mechanism and concrete case study will be presented and discussed in plenary. The participants will have to come with three concrete recommendations on how to address this negative trend.</p>
	<p>ACCESS TO JUSTICE</p> <p>Non-judicial redress and grievance mechanisms offer possibilities for addressing human rights abuses and improving the human rights policies and practices of multinational corporations. An important aspect to address is what opportunities and barriers exist for indigenous rights defenders in seeking redress and remedy, especially those from marginalised and poor communities. During this session, examples from regional human right mechanism and treaty body will be presented and discussed in plenary and the participants will have to come with three concrete recommendations on how to better access justice and remedy.</p>
12:00 – 13:00	The key recommendations from the three parallel sessions will be presented and discussed in plenum. IWGIA will together with the Danish Ministry of Foreign affairs make the closing remarks.
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch