

**PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Statement by

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## Global Answers to Global Challenges

Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

At this moment in time major economic and environmental challenges give rise to increasing global concerns and impact people all over this planet. To effectively meet these challenges, we need more than ever a dynamic and proactive multilateral system. We need the United Nations to provide global answers to global challenges.

*Mr. President,*

In less than three months, we will meet again in Copenhagen to Seal the Deal on **climate change**. The effects of climate change are increasingly felt all over the world, not least in developing countries, and the whole world is looking to us for answers. And answers we must provide – new directions for the future, transformational changes in the way we do business, and a new paradigm for growth and development. In this respect, I do welcome the leadership of the Secretary-General as demonstrated by his call for a Summit on Climate Change a few days ago, and by his concluding remarks on that occasion.

The message is clear: We must **act now** to avoid potentially disastrous changes in the global climate. The focus in Copenhagen will be on three deliverables. First, we must agree on a common goal for a significant reduction in global CO2 emissions and set clear targets at both medium and longer term. Second, we must agree on a pathway towards achieving these targets. And third, we must set in motion the policies and measures to sustain it.

Reducing CO2 emissions is a challenge for both industrialized countries, emerging economies and developing countries. There is no contradiction between economic growth and ambitious policies to address climate change. Pursuing a **Green Economy** is possible as shown by the example of i.a. my own country.

In this context, it is also important to keep in mind the **security risks** emanating from climate changes in all parts of the world. I welcome the Secretary-General's recent report on this issue and look forward to further deliberations.

*Mr. President,*

The ongoing financial and economic crisis is reversing hard won progress in developing countries striving to achieve the **Millennium Development Goals**. The international community must assist the poorest of these countries in mitigating the immediate effects of the crisis, while at the same time ensuring that we don't lose sight of the longer term challenges in relation to the MDGs and the Climate Change agenda.

There is an imminent risk that the economic crisis will lead to a stagnation or a reduction of official development assistance. This is a challenge we must counter and overcome, and it is more crucial than ever that all donors speed up delivery on their aid commitments.

**African countries**, in particular, are facing significant obstacles in achieving the MDG's. As recommended by the Africa Commission and the MDG3 Call to Action, both initiated by the Danish Government, there is a need to focus strongly on employment for young people, economic empowerment of women and on private sector led economic growth. Renewed focus on these policy areas will also be of essence in coping with the economic crisis and its impact on the continent.

As we embark on the final stage towards 2015, the upcoming **MDG Summit in 2010** gives us an important opportunity to identify means to speed up achievement of the MDGs. Denmark looks forward to this occasion and is ready to engage actively in the process.

*Mr. President,*

In an increasingly globalised and dynamic world, where the problems we face tend to become ever more complex and intertwined, it is important to treasure and uphold the principles and the objectives enshrined in the UN Charter. To promote and encourage respect for **human rights** and fundamental freedoms for all; to establish conditions under which justice and respect for international obligations can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of living.

States must protect its own population. And States must be accountable to the global community. In this context, I welcome the recent debate held in this room on the **Responsibility to Protect** which showed overwhelming support by member states for the concept. It bodes well for our continued deliberations on this issue.

Let me also use this opportunity to encourage all UN members, who have not done so already, to become State Parties to the **International Criminal Court**. There should be no impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious international crimes.

*Mr. President,*

Amongst the most serious present danger to peace and security is the **proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery**. The upcoming NPT Review Conference is of utmost importance. Last week's meeting in the Security Council headed by President Obama is ample evidence. We welcome the negotiations between the US and Russia on post-START reductions and President Obama's commitment to CTBT ratification, both of which will have a positive impact on the NPT Review Conference.

Let me take the opportunity to call on **Iran** and **DPRK** to comply with their obligations to suspend enrichment activities and start negotiations on a transparent civilian nuclear program, as set forth in Security Council resolutions.

*Mr. President,*

The election in **Afghanistan** is far from perfect. We need to engage with the new government to create the crucial legitimacy between the Afghan government and people. The new Afghan compact to build is one between the government and the people. Our role should be to strengthen this compact and hold the government accountable. From the

international community's side we need to be better coordinated and more effective in our support to building the capacity of the Afghan government. In this the UN and UNAMA plays a crucial role.

In neighbouring **Pakistan**, the international community and the Friends of Democratic Pakistan must seize the opportunity to support the democratic government in fighting poverty and extremism. We must help Pakistan build a stable, democratic and prosperous state. This would be a significant contribution to peace and development in South Asia. I warmly welcome the efforts of the Government to fight terrorism while at the same time trying to alleviate the hardship of Pakistan's internally displaced people. It is positive that so many IDP's have returned. Now, a full and fast implementation of the Malakand strategy is important.

*Mr. President,*

The deadlock in the **Middle East Peace Process** and regional tensions are demanding new international efforts in order to promote stability and peace in the region. We are encouraged to see the enhanced American engagement in the region.

I urge all parties to the Middle East conflict to honour the Road Map commitments and move speedily ahead and once and for all settle their differences in accordance with the international agreements and the Arab Peace Initiative. Furthermore, Denmark is in favour of expanding the mandate of the Quartet with a **regional dimension**. Also the Syrian and Lebanese peace tracks should feature permanently on the agenda of the Quartet.

*Mr. President,*

**Pirates** operating in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Somalia are a security challenge which encompasses new legal challenges. Denmark has taken lead in the international community's work to identify practical and legal solutions to ensure the prosecution of suspected pirates. We welcome the ever more active involvement of the UN on this issue.

In this respect, we have to remember that what is taking place on the open sea is closely linked to the situation on ground in Somalia. Bringing security and stability to the Somalis is of highest priority, and Denmark supports the UN's, AU's efforts and the Djibouti process.

*Mr. President,*

The UN itself must be able to change in order to effectively meet and deliver on the new challenges. It is important to keep up momentum in the intergovernmental negotiations on **reform of the Security Council** in order to adapt this key body to the world of today.

The UN's global peacekeeping commitments continue to play a decisive role for global peace and security with more than 100.000 peacekeepers deployed in nearly 20 missions globally. However, the immense growth and demand for strengthening the capacity to manage and sustain **peacekeeping operations** has revealed shortfalls pertaining to decision processes and the engagements themselves. Denmark, therefore, warmly supports recent initiatives, which

would enable us to meet the growing demands with a system in place that is more effective, transparent and accountable.

Security is a precondition to programme delivery, a degree of risk cannot be avoided, but the challenge is to mitigate it. Denmark, therefore, supports the continuing overhauling of security assessments and procedures.

But also the situation in a country after the end of a conflict is often extremely volatile. There is a need to ensure quick, effective and efficient support in post-conflict situations and to strengthen **peace building** efforts. The UN is uniquely suited to lead these efforts, and we welcome the strong emphasis on this issue and look forward to 2010 review of peace building architecture.

The work of the UN in the area of gender, and of women's rights and development, has for too long been fragmented and underfunded. In this light, the recent decision by the General Assembly to create a new gender architecture within the UN is of great significance. We will support the Secretary General in his efforts to ensure the swift establishment of such an entity in every possible way. The rapid creation of a new gender entity will represent a milestone in the important work of reforming the UN system.

All UN entities, funds and programmes, and the Secretariat, need to act more coherently. On the operational side we strongly support the ongoing efforts to make the various parts of the system **Deliver as One** based on a common understanding of needs and priorities, and with full country ownership of the joint programme. It is a collective responsibility and an opportunity to comprehensively pursue this agenda. More effective and efficient ways of working system-wide are important; therefore, harmonization of business practices must be accelerated.

*Mr. President,*

**Multilateral cooperation** is the best means of maintaining international peace and security and responding to the challenges, risks and opportunities in an interdependent and globalised world. This organisation holds great legitimacy and moral force, and we encourage the United Nations – member states as well as the entire organizational system – to seize the moment and take the lead in addressing the new global challenges. An ambitious and successful outcome of the upcoming COP 15 in Copenhagen in December would be a significant step in that direction.

Thank you.