

Statement by

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Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to align myself with the statement by the President of the European Council, Mr. Herman van Rompuy, on behalf of the European Union. Denmark appreciates the resolution, adopted earlier this year, giving the European Union the opportunity to address the General Assembly at this juncture of its deliberations. The Lisbon Treaty marks a new phase of European cooperation, which will benefit the United Nations as well.

Mr. President,

The past year has once again demonstrated how quickly events can unfold and how unexpected crises can break out in different parts of the world. Months of violent conflict in Côte d'Ivoire before a democratically elected president could finally take his rightful place. Devastating earthquakes and tsunamis in Japan followed by nuclear contamination. A current and still more severe humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa. Pakistan struck by overwhelming floods.

But also events of historic proportions that are still unfolding in North Africa and the Middle East.

From Tunisia to Egypt, from Libya to Syria, from Bahrain to Yemen and beyond, people are demanding their rights and their freedom. They are standing up for core human aspirations and values: They want to shape their own lives, economically and politically. It is a call for political participation, for freedom of speech and for the right of assembly. A call for dignity, for accountability, for justice and for jobs. And it has sparked a hope for a better life for the people in the region. The international community, with the United Nations in the lead, has a strong responsibility to support these historic aspirations.

The winds of change currently sweeping across the Middle East and North Africa have confirmed once again that the desire for freedom, democratic reforms, and human rights is universal.

A few days ago, countries met under the auspices of the Secretary-General, to express their admiration for the courage of the **Libyan** people in their struggle to take control of their own future. Denmark is proud to have supported the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people and to have contributed to the protection of the lives of Libyan civilians. A few days ago, this Assembly welcomed the National Transitional Council as the representatives of **Libya**. Being here today with the National Transitional Council in the seat of Libya is tangible evidence of the progress achieved by the Libyan people in determining their own destiny. Denmark along with the international community continues to support the aspirations of the Libyan people. It is encouraging that the Security Council has now authorized a new UN Mission to support Libyan national efforts.

Mr. President,

Developments across the Middle East and North Africa make it clear that in the 21st century, Governments must be politically accountable, respect people's rights and dignity and deliver economic opportunities. The only credible answer to these legitimate popular demands is sustainable political and economic reforms.

Unfortunately, we sometimes witness countries that do not live up to their responsibility and obligations as members of the international community.

As we speak, events continue to unfold across the region, including in **Syria**. More than 2,600 people in Syria have died during the popular uprising. We condemn unequivocally the violence against and killing of peaceful demonstrators. It is high time to respect the right of peaceful protests and their legitimate demands. To increase the pressure on the Syrian regime we adopt sanctions and hope others will join us.

Mr. President,

Some of the prerequisites for a sustainable transition to a flourishing democracy are free, fair and transparent elections, free media, protection of minorities, a functioning government, and an independent judiciary upholding the Rule of Law.

Democratic change must come from within. It has to be home-grown and based on local leadership, ownership and participation. Surely, this does not exclude international assistance, including from the UN.

Afghanistan has come a long way since the fall of the Taliban regime. We hope Afghanistan will take yet another step in its transition process at the upcoming conference in Bonn in December. Moving towards 2014, the UN-system – in close cooperation with the Afghan authorities – will also have to undertake a thorough review of its activities in Afghanistan in order to continuously maximize its contribution towards good governance, anti-corruption and sustainable socio-economic development.

Mr. President,

What we see around the world is not only a call for political reforms. It is also a call for inclusive economic development, for jobs, pure and simple, and for improved standards of living. And not least it is a call from, and about, youth.

Governments will need to strengthen economic and social reforms, ensuring that they generate inclusive growth and shared prosperity for all and not just for the few and already privileged. The **Millennium Development Goals** have succeeded in galvanizing action, not least in health and education, and all countries have a joint obligation to ensure that the goals, which we agreed to in 2000, will actually be fulfilled by 2015. The development challenge is pressing in **Sub-Saharan Africa**, a region long marked by

poverty and conflict, but, in recent years, in many countries also characterized by strong growth and optimism.

National ownership and clear political commitments remain the keys to success. But for many of the poorest countries, **development cooperation** continues to be an important tool and a catalyst in their efforts to ensure that also the poorest people will be able to enjoy the full potential of globalization. Denmark is doing its part to assist, based on a sound track record in international development cooperation. We are one out of only five countries which at present fulfil the internationally agreed target of delivering at least 0.7 pct. of GNP as development assistance. We would like to welcome others to this point-seven club.

We are not going to succeed, however, without focusing especially on **countries affected by conflict or fragility**. We especially look towards the United Nations to coordinate efforts in these countries. This is where the UN can make a real difference.

The empowerment of **women** is an important aspect in this process. We welcome the creation of UN Women and look forward to working closely with this new organization in the area of gender mainstreaming. No less important is the issue of sexual and reproductive health and rights of women.

Mr. President,

The Conference in Rio in June 2012 presents a unique opportunity to revitalize the discussion and understanding of sustainable development. Rio+20 will be an opportunity to put sustainable development at the top of the global development agenda.

Denmark welcomes the focus on green economy and the institutional framework for sustainable development. Transitioning to a green economy is necessary, if the world is to cope with the multiple challenges of resource scarcity, poverty eradication and climate change. Economic growth is crucial in the decades ahead, but it will have to be green. Today, 1.4 billion people are without access to modern sources of **energy**. Universal access to energy will contribute to lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty.

Poland and Denmark, as part of the EU trio presidency 2011-12, are working jointly to strengthen the green growth agenda and contribute to the global objective of sustainable development, in accordance with the trio presidency programme. Next month, Denmark will host the first **Global Green Growth Forum** in Copenhagen. 3GF will lend new momentum to public-private cooperation on concrete initiatives that will inspire regulatory interventions, remove key barriers, identify opportunities and solutions for a renewed push to advance green growth globally.

Mr. President,

Earlier this year we witnessed the birth of a new state as we welcomed the 193rd member of the United Nations. The **Republic of South Sudan** is the fulfilment of the democratically expressed will to self-determination by the overwhelming majority of the South Sudanese people. We congratulate the people of South Sudan on this historic achievement.

The **Palestinian** cause and quest for statehood is high on the agenda here in New York; and rightly so. The present regional context remind us all, including the two parties, that direct political peace negotiations must now be resumed - and within a specific time frame they must produce a lasting peace and an end of conflict based on a two-state solution with both states living side by side in peace and security.

Mr. President,

Let me finally use this opportunity to **congratulate Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon** on his re-election for a second five year term. We have all been inspired by his tireless efforts in the field of peace and security and human rights – and by his strong leadership on Climate Change and sustainable development.

At a time when the United Nations is ever more relevant, Denmark lends its full support to the Secretary-General and to his stewardship of the organization. The challenges we face call for international resolve and for joint action. With the Secretary-General's own words: "We need results that people can see and touch, results that change lives, results that make a difference." This is why we turn to the UN.

I thank you.