

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



Statement by

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Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

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Mr. President,

In the 21st century, old distinctions between North and South, developed and developing, are beginning to lose their meaning. We are witnessing significant shifts in the geopolitical balance, in population dynamics, and in economic power between Member States.

As documented in this year's UN Human Development Report, many developing countries experience faster economic growth. Emerging economies now produce the majority of the world's goods and services. And three-quarters of the world's economic growth is set to depend on their dynamism. Today, emerging economies and middle-income countries are an important part of the reshaping of the global economy.

In a globalized world, with dramatic shifts of power and influence, a strong United Nations is more relevant than ever. We need the UN with its unique legitimacy and its universal membership. We need a UN which can contribute with common solutions to global challenges. We need a UN which reflects the changing political landscape – including through a reformed Security Council.

Above all, we need a UN which can help mediate, prevent, and resolve armed conflicts.

For the UN to be able to contribute effectively to resolving armed conflicts, it is crucial that the UN Security Council shows leadership and proves that it can fulfil its primary purpose and responsibility of cooperating in solving international crises and promoting universal respect for human rights.

Today, the total number of people uprooted by conflict or persecution is close to 45 million – the highest level in 18 years. This illustrates the human suffering and costs of conflict that we must do our utmost to prevent and resolve.

An integrated approach to preventive diplomacy, peace-building, peace-keeping, and prevention of atrocities is crucial. The cure against armed conflicts and instability is to invest in democratic structures that protect civilians and their human rights and contribute to socio-economic progress. In recent years, the Security Council has increasingly integrated the rule of law, human rights and the protection of civilians into its mandates for UN peacekeeping and peace-building missions. This is an encouraging development that Denmark fully supports.

Denmark agrees with the Secretary General that building societies that are resilient to atrocity crimes increases prospects for long-term peace and stability. The unacceptable suffering in Syria is a tragic reminder of the consequences when no early action to prevent atrocity crimes is undertaken.

Advancing the primary responsibility of states to protect their populations should be a concern of all governments. The responsibility to protect is consistent with existing obligations and international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law which are binding on all States. Denmark calls on Member States to join the global network of “Responsibility to Protect” focal points that work to integrate atrocity prevention in national policies and to engage with other Member States and regional organizations to build capacity and cooperation *before* crises and conflicts break out.

At the same time, we must ensure accountability for human rights violations and for past atrocity crimes. The perpetrators of the crimes must be brought to justice. While the Security Council last Friday took an important step to address the crisis in Syria, Denmark reiterates its call on the Council to refer the case of Syria to the International Criminal Court.

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Mr. President

Sexual violence in conflict is one of the most persistent injustices in the world today. And also one of the most neglected. We must combat sexual violence as a method of warfare. Likewise, we must promote women’s participation in peace-building and in social and economic recovery. Denmark strongly believes that no durable peace can be attained without the full and equal participation of women in peace-making and peace-building processes.

Building sustainable peace and long-term stability remains one of the most difficult challenges for the international community and the United Nations. But the investment is well worth it. We must support country-led and country-owned transition strategies in building paths towards resilient societies.

Conflict and violence have devastating effects on development. The complex situation in fragile states represents perhaps the greatest challenge to combat poverty as low-income fragile states are those most off track towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals. It is therefore essential that the central roles of state-building and peace-building are duly reflected in the post-2015 framework.

The New Deal on engagement in fragile states, led by the G7+ countries, provides Peace-building and State-building Goals that call for a global effort to strengthen people’s security, to reduce violence, to increase people’s access to justice, to generate employment and improve livelihoods. We urge that the experiences and lessons from the New Deal become a source of inspiration for the discussions on the post-2015 development framework.

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Mr. President,

The process of establishing the post-2015 development agenda should result in one single universal framework with one set of goals that can unite the world in a strong effort to eradicate extreme poverty, promote sustainable development, and ensure all people the right to a better life. Denmark welcomes the outcome document from the Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals last week, which provides a first important step towards this vision.

At the same time, unfinished business from the MDGs must figure prominently in the post-2015 development agenda. The focus should be on ending extreme poverty in one generation and promote sustainable development in all its dimensions. Empowerment of women and girls, and access to basic services such as health and education, must not drop off the agenda. On the contrary, we must commit to doing more to close these gaps.

Denmark is committed to shouldering its share of the collective responsibility. In 2012, Denmark provided 0.83 pct. of its gross national income as Official Development Assistance, and it has been fulfilling the international target of 0.7 pct. since 1978. Also, we are strengthening our efforts to work in partnership with private business and other non-state actors to increase investments in developing countries – especially in Africa.

As also highlighted by the Secretary General and the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in their reports, a new coherent post-2015 framework must be firmly anchored in human rights as universal values and enablers for sustainable development.

Such a framework must build on the core principles that underpin the international human rights framework; namely participation, accountability, transparency, and non-discrimination. It must address the human rights of all groups in our societies and pay special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples.

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Mr. President,

We are losing ground when it comes to inequality *within* countries where we see a widening gap between rich and poor people. The 1.2 billion poorest people account for only 1 pct. of world consumption while the billion richest consume 72 pct. Inequalities and their underlying causes must be addressed in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in order to effectively eradicate extreme poverty, underpin socio-economic progress, and prevent instability.

Gender-based discrimination, including the denial of the rights of women and girls, remains the single most widespread driver of inequalities in today's world. For Denmark, it is critical that gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are reflected in the post-2015 agenda. This is also underscored by the High Level Panel report.

Macroeconomic policy is essential in addressing inequalities. Equitable socio-economic progress and fair distribution of resources are important for developed and developing countries alike.

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Mr. President,

Scientific evidence, as just presented by the IPCC, makes it clear that climate change has become a threat multiplier. More frequent natural disasters impact on the most vulnerable people and add another layer to fragility, inequality and instability. Unsustainable production and consumption increase stress on natural resources and ecosystems. CO2 emissions today are 46 pct. higher than the 1990 level. The UN and its Member States must promote innovative technologies and new solutions to water, food and energy scarcity, deforestation and high carbon emissions. Jointly, we must push the transformation to a green economy.

Green growth is necessary, if we are to deal effectively with increased demands for resources over the next 15-20 years, as global population grows. Green growth is about opportunities for all, not about obstacles for some. Access to and management of energy and of water resources are two important elements. Governments cannot do it alone. We need active involvement and a close partnership with the private sector, including businesses, private foundations, as well as with civil society and public institutions.

We must do our utmost to increase the level of ambitions in a new climate agreement that shall commit all countries. We welcome the UN Secretary General's invitation to a summit in September 2014 which will serve to keep up momentum of the climate negotiations. It is crucial to set an ambitious international agenda for tackling the consequences of climate change. Denmark's long-term energy policy goal is clear: Our entire energy supply should be covered by renewable energy by 2050. Denmark stands ready to support a global agenda towards limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius. Our contribution to the Secretary General's SE4All initiative is part of this support, including the establishment of an Energy Efficiency Hub in the new UN City in Copenhagen. Denmark will also work for an ambitious and operational outcome of the 'The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States' to take place in September 2014.

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Mr. President,

At country level, Denmark supports a UN that can inspire change and deliver concrete results which will benefit the populations, strengthen their confidence in political processes and pave the way for long term stability and development.

We condemn the indiscriminate violence that we witness in Syria. Not only does it harm the civilians in the most tragic way, it also undermines regional stability as a whole. With the conflict in Syria, we are confronted with a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented proportions. Last month the world witnessed a further escalation of the conflict with the horrendous chemical attack in Ghouta. Denmark strongly condemns all use of chemical weapons, and we are convinced that a strong international reaction is required. It is crucial that those responsible for this grave violation of international law will be brought to justice and that future use of chemical weapons is effectively prevented.

From the very outset of the tragedy in Syria, Denmark has emphasized the need for a political solution to end the human suffering. We welcome the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 2118 on the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons. Denmark continues to strongly support the efforts towards a Geneva II conference.

In Egypt, an already fragile situation has worsened significantly over the last months in which tragic events have led to a heavy loss of civilian lives. Denmark has sent a strong and clear signal to the Egyptian authorities that democracy and dialogue must return. Progress in Egypt can only come through a peaceful, inclusive process. Many challenges still lie ahead with regard to implementation of the road map for a return to democratic and civilian rule in Egypt. We urge the Egyptian authorities to accept the support of the international community for this process. The UN can play an important role in supporting respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

Progress in the Middle East Peace Process remains critical for improving regional stability. Denmark welcomes the US initiative in view of resumed direct negotiations. All parties must now truly seize this opportunity for peace and work constructively for a sustainable two-state solution.

In Afghanistan, we welcome the process towards full national ownership which is crucial for the long-term future of the country. Afghan authorities are taking over still greater responsibility for security and institutions. There is, however, a clear need for a continued, strong political commitment from the international community in order for Afghanistan to succeed towards this goal. The Afghan government and its international partners must live up to the Tokyo Declaration on Partnership for Self-Reliance in Afghanistan from July 2012. Denmark will remain a strong partner for Afghanistan on its way to democracy and improved livelihood. The UN's assistance to Afghanistan in managing the transition process, including the upcoming electoral processes, will be essential now and in the years to come.

Peace and security in the Sahel region have lately been challenged through violent extremism, the presence of armed groups, expansion of trans-border organized crime and increasing environmental and climate change pressures which jeopardize development gains. Denmark supports the implementation of the Secretary-General's Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. Throughout the Sahel, the influence of civil society on national and international decision-making warrants attention in order to deepen and consolidate on-going stabilization and peace efforts. Together with the UN, the AU, African and international partners, Denmark is committed to supporting efforts in Mali and the Sahel to facilitate reconciliation through inclusive dialogue and active engagement of civil society. We also support MINUSMA as a strong UN peacekeeping mission.

Somalia's New Deal Compact will be crucial for reconciliation and peace-building and will set the priorities for the next three years. It is important that peace and development are dealt with in an integrated way – and that there is mutual commitment - to develop and follow up on the Compact for Somalia. We welcome the explicit use in the Compact of the Peace-building and State-building Goals from the New Deal Compact – and the strong ownership by Somalia to implement the principles of the New Deal.

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Unregulated and irresponsible international trade in arms has had devastating effects. Earlier this year, the General Assembly made history by adopting the Arms Trade Treaty. Denmark supports the swift entry into force and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. Denmark is committed to assisting States, on their request, to meet their obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty.

We once again call upon Iran and DPRK to comply with international law and relevant Security Council resolutions. We welcome all efforts to resolve the issue of Iran's nuclear program.

Mr. President,

UN is ever more relevant in a time when strong multilateral cooperation is needed to cope with global challenges transcending national borders. No country can confront these challenges on its own. Seen from the perspective of Denmark as a smaller state, the UN should inspire change and help States take action when moving forward towards 2015 and beyond.

Thank you for your attention.