



Statement by

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Focus on Prevention

Mr. President,

In a complex world, it is smart economics – and smart politics – to focus on **prevention** rather than cure. This holds true whether we address the global economic crisis, sustainable development and poverty reduction, conflicts, like in Syria, or arms trade and disarmament. In this context, the inclusion of women in the political decision-making processes is not only the right thing to do – it is one of the most powerful drivers for positive change.

Our **natural resources** are increasingly under pressure. By 2030 the world will need 50 per cent more food, 45 per cent more energy, and 30 per cent more water. Thus, we must charter a new course for our common future and develop a new paradigm for economic growth and development that will make it possible to deal with these challenges and create opportunities for future generations.

In Rio in June – at **Rio+20** – we made some progress, laying down the foundations for the transformative course we need to pursue. But the house still has to be built, and this General Assembly must provide some of the building blocks to do so. Defining Sustainable Development Goals as part of the overall post-2015 international development framework, establishing the high-level political forum, and upgrading UNEP are all key parts of the agenda before us.

Denmark strongly supports the Secretary-General's "**Sustainable Energy for All**"-initiative launched in November 2011, and we remain committed to its objectives. Access to sustainable energy, improved energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy are all necessary conditions for achieving long term sustainable development.

In Rio, **Green Economy** was finally recognized as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development. We need to work in close partnership with both the private sector and with civil society, if we are to succeed in transforming the global economy.

The Danish government, in partnership with the governments of Mexico and the Republic of Korea, last year created a public-private partnership between progressive governments and global corporations, financial institutions and international organizations, including the UN, called the Global Green Growth Forum (**3GF**). In the second Forum meeting of 3GF a week from now in Copenhagen, the focus will be on "Resource Efficiency and Growth", reinforcing the need to decouple economic growth from unsustainable environmental pressures and to refocus efforts on the creation of decent jobs.

Mr. President,

While making the last push for achieving the MDG's in 2015, we will start preparing the **post-2015 international development framework** and embark on the discussion on how to best formulate new and more ambitious goals beyond 2015. As stated, the Sustainable Development Goals should be an integrated part of this exercise. Denmark strongly supports the promotion of human rights as a means to development – rights being understood as indivisible and interdependent. Such a rights-based approach is about placing people – men and women – at the center and in charge of their own development. And let me add - for a woman also the right to decide over her own body, why Denmark welcome today's launch of the high-level

taskforce for ICPD. Important parts of this rights-based approach are access to information, involvement in decision-making, and strengthening the voice of civil society.

Four decades ago, the United Nations set a target for developed countries to increase ODA to **0.7 per cent** of their gross national income. Every year since 1978, Denmark has surpassed this target and our development assistance will continue to increase over the years to come. We call on other donors and potential donors, including emerging economies, to increase their assistance as well.

We see a great need for support to **fragile states** like Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen, Afghanistan and Mali, where fragility and conflict hamper development and poverty reduction and may provide breeding ground for all kinds of instability. We do see positive signs in these countries, but the challenges are many still and we therefore depend on strong – and continuous – political commitment both within the countries and by the international community in order to succeed.

As international community, we need to take a closer look at our tool box and find the right mix of development assistance and security policy response, including addressing terrorism and in some cases piracy. In conflict-affected and fragile countries, there is a need to understand that without security there can be no development and that without development there can be no security.

Denmark actively participates in promoting the **New Deal** for engagement in fragile states, and we are currently co-chairing the International Dialogue on Peace-building and State-building. A peaceful and prosperous development in fragile states stands at the heart of Danish development policy, latest exemplified in relation to the Sahel region. Denmark shares the ambition of the International Dialogue to have Peace-building and State-building Goals firmly reflected in the post-2015 international development framework.

Mr. President,

We must also use international cooperation to reduce the level of conflicts and to set clear rules for all to abide. Unregulated and irresponsible **trade of conventional weapons** is often the direct cause for unbearable human suffering, for further destabilizing weak and fragile states, and a hindrance of development.

There is an urgent need for a universal and legally binding Arms Trade Treaty, and Denmark has – together with Germany – encouraged the Secretary General to continue his strong personal engagement with a view to convening a second ATT conference to be held early 2013. Now is the time to act, and we call upon the members of the General Assembly to successfully conclude the negotiations on the treaty without delay.

Let me use this occasion to once again call on **DPRK** – and especially on **Iran** – to comply with international law and relevant Security Council resolutions. It is in Iran's own interest to take concrete steps to build international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear program. The Non-Proliferation Treaty is a cornerstone in the international cooperation on disarmament and non-proliferation. In this context, Denmark actively supports the work of the Finnish facilitator to organize a conference on the Middle East as a zone free of weapons and materials of mass destruction.

Mr. President,

For Denmark and the EU, **Rule of Law** is critical for international peace and security, human rights and development. It is a fundamental principle of good governance in which the State is accountable to its citizens and ensures their human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as their participatory rights. We therefore welcome the outcome of this week's High-Level meeting on the Rule of Law and the commitments made by member states. Denmark also looks forward to effective follow-up of the High-Level meeting.

International agreement on the **Responsibility to Protect** at the 2005 World Summit was a clear statement by the international community that the atrocities and large scale tragedies of the 20th century must not be repeated in the 21st Century. The global network of National Focal Points on R2P – an initiative launched by the governments of Denmark and Ghana, Costa Rica and Australia – is an approach to encourage and assist states in developing their national capacities and mechanisms for the prevention of mass atrocity crimes. We call on all states to appoint national focal points and to join the network, thereby demonstrating their commitment to decisive and timely prevention and response.

Mr. President,

In **Syria** we witness – as I speak – a government that is not living up to its moral and political obligations. Instead, it pursues a violent path of trying to quell the cry for freedom, democratic reforms and human rights. Despite several promises made to the international community during the last year, the Assad-regime has not stopped the violence. Instead we have only heard the sound of machine guns, heavy weapons and airplanes firing away at civilians. Since I stood here at this podium a year ago, the situation has only deteriorated. Last year about 2,600 people in Syria had died. Now, more than 20,000 people have died in the conflict. The Syrian people are fleeing from the spree of bullets, and a quarter of a million of them are now refugees in neighbouring countries. More than a million people inside Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance.

We **condemn** the brutal violence and massacres of civilians in the strongest terms. The time has come to stop the bloodshed and suffering of the Syrian people. We cannot look away while the increasing sectarian violence spiral out of control, the humanitarian emergency escalates, and the crisis spills over borders. President Assad has lost all legitimacy and must step aside to allow for a peaceful and democratic transition.

At the same time those responsible for gross human rights violations must be put to justice. We commend the work done by the Commission of Inquiry. The Commission has done very valuable work. We note in particular that the Commission has stated that it is likely that crimes against humanity have been committed by the Syrian regime. The international community must act on this information. Denmark calls on the Security Council to refer the case of Syria and the serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the country to the **International Criminal Court**.

We urge the Security Council to unite and agree on strong measures, including comprehensive sanctions, which will enforce the 6-point plan endorsed by the Council. We cannot afford to continue waiting for a change of policy on the part of the regime, that it shows no sign of ever making. The Syrian people need action. At the same time, we strongly encourage the Syrian

opposition groups to agree on a set of shared principles for working towards an inclusive, orderly, and peaceful transition in Syria to a future free of Assad and his brutal regime.

While thanking Mr. Kofi Annan for his valuable contribution to finding a lasting solution to the conflict, we now put our trust in the new joint special envoy, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi and his efforts in reaching a political solution to the conflict.

Mr. President,

The negative developments in Syria stand in sharp contrast to the situation in other countries that have been affected by the **Arab winds of change**. Calls for reforms, economic justice, democracy and respect for human rights have been heard, and in countries like Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, and Libya things are moving and overall in the right direction. But there are also signs that progress is not universal. For example the recent decision by the Bahraini Court of Appeals to uphold the convictions of 20 human rights activists, including a Danish national. Calling for reforms is not a crime, as it was rightly pointed out by the UN High commissioner for Human Rights.

Last month's election of a new prime minister in Libya, however – by a democratically elected parliament – is a concrete example of progress. All the more difficult is it to comprehend last month's terrible and tragic attack on the **US mission in Benghazi**, which we have strongly condemned. It was a sobering reminder of the serious challenges that still persist in countries in transition toward democracy. Democracy does not happen overnight. It takes years to develop, and attacks by extremists should not be allowed to derail a process that the majority of the people have fought so hard for. We stand firm by our commitments to Libya. And we stand firm in there being no justification for such attacks. None what so ever.

It has been clear since the beginning of the Arab Spring that developments in the region make the **Middle East Peace Process** and a negotiated solution even more urgent and important. A year ago, the Quartet called for a peace agreement to be signed no later than the end of 2012. Regrettably, we face a reality which does not auger well for this to come true. As things develop on the ground, the prospects for a two-state solution comprising of two independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign, and viable states living side by side in peace and security are diminishing, not increasing. As we approach the 20 years anniversary of the Oslo Agreement, it is indeed time to reach a final agreement.

Mr. President,

The world is undergoing profound changes these years. Current and new challenges call for international resolve and multilateral solutions. It calls for strategic approaches, focusing on prevention and early action to dismantle problems, rather than on belated responses and interventions to deal with them when it is too late, too inefficient, and much more costly. And it calls for the United Nations, which strength lies in its unique legitimacy, to step up to the plate and take the lead in addressing these global challenges. The United Nations can make a real difference for the 7 billion people living on this Planet. It is for us to ensure that it does.

I thank you.