

# Contribution by Denmark

## Action by the Government of Denmark to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the run-up to 2010

### United Nations High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

New York, 25 September 2008

#### Increased development assistance that makes a difference

Denmark is committed to the UN target of providing 0.7 percent in ODA. The Danish Government is committed to a further increase in Denmark's development assistance from a base-level of 0.8 percent. An amount totalling DKK 15.3 billion will be set aside in 2009 to development assistance, equivalent to **0.82 per cent of GNI**. Compared to 2008, this means approximately DKK 750 million more to the benefit of the world's poorest. The Danish Government will maintain long-term commitments and mutually binding cooperation as the core of its development policy. The aim is to support the efforts of the developing countries in achieving **all MDGs and to combat poverty**, benefit from globalization and achieve a better future.

#### Strengthened assistance to Africa

The increase in Danish ODA will benefit Africa in particular. The aim is to direct **two thirds of the bilateral assistance** to the African continent while concentrating the cooperation on increasing Africa's global voice, strengthening regional integration and providing more and better aid. With the **"Commission for Effective Development Cooperation with Africa"**, convened by the Danish Prime Minister in April 2008 with a view to elaborating concrete recommendations for making Danish and international development cooperation more efficient, there is an increased focus on shared growth and employment, particularly for young people. Ensuring women's rights and opportunities are also key issues. An amount of DKK 200 million is set aside in 2009 to ensure immediate follow-up to the recommendations of the Commission. The long term follow-up will take place in the following years.

#### Call to Action for gender equality and women's empowerment - MDG3

Gender equality is key to accelerating progress on all MDGs. The Danish Government has therefore made a specific Call to Action on MDG3. The Call has resulted in 100 new commitments from actors around the world to do something extra for MDG3. This has transformed into a Global Coalition of partners willing to continue the Call in the run up to 2010. The Danish Government is committed to continuing the high profile on MDG3 with specific focus on the economic empowerment of women. Development assistance to gender equality and women's rights and opportunities will be doubled from DKK 200 million in 2008 to DKK 400 million in 2010. In addition, a special initiative for women's rights and opportunities in Liberia worth DKK 100 million will be launched.

#### Doubling of the assistance to the fight against HIV/AIDS - MDG6

Fighting HIV/AIDS is high on the list of priorities. Denmark is committed to double its assistance from DKK 500 million in 2006 to DKK 1 billion in 2010 with the aim of achieving universal access to treatment by 2010 and halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015.

#### Increase in Climate Change Initiatives

Despite the fact that the poorest countries bear the least responsibility for man-made climate changes, these countries are hit the hardest. The Danish Government is therefore committed to increase climate change

initiatives and has doubled the special budgetary allocation for climate change initiatives to DKK 200 million in 2009. The amount will increase to DKK 500 million in 2012. This allocation will not least assist the poorest countries in the fight to reduce and adapt to the man-made climate changes. Since 2005 Denmark has further been upscaling the implementation of a Climate and Development Action Programme, aiming at assisting bilateral development partners to safeguard development investments against the effects of climate change.