



UDENRIGSMINISTERIET

INDLÆG til brug for ministeren for udviklingssamarbejde

CPD højniveausegment mandag d. 1 april fra kl. 10.00 – 12.00

[taletid max 5 min., fra Danmarks stol i salen]

As a global citizen, a woman, a mother and a minister for development cooperation, I am pleased to be here today at the opening of this fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development.

I am also pleased that we, in this milestone year, have been able to meet in consensus and adopt a political declaration at CPD. Millions of women and girls around the globe are counting on our leadership.

This year's session is exceptional. Marking the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action. A “defining moment in the history of international cooperation” – as the preamble states. And a landmark consensus recognition by 179 governments that reproductive health and rights are indeed human rights.

The results made so far in implementing the ICPD Plan of Action have been a major contribution to our common framework for global development – the Sustainable Development Goals.

For Denmark, the ICPD has been key in the development of our policy on gender equality and women and girls' rights globally. A woman's right to decide freely over her own body, her own future, and to determine when, with whom and how many children she wants, is at the very core of Danish development policy.

We live in a world, where some people still believe that young girls are too young for sexuality education, but old enough to get married. This is absurd.

For this reason, I have just decided to allocate 15 mil. DKK - approximately 2.3 mil. USD – to UNFPA in support of their out of school-project in West Africa. The project aims to reach marginalized youth and youth out-of-school with Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

I recently visited Burkina Faso and Niger and it was clear to me that Comprehensive Sexuality Education is of paramount importance for young peoples' health and well-being. And for gender equality.

One this note, I am very excited that we will all have another chance to meet later this year to continue our discussions and advance even further on this important agenda.

I am extremely proud that Denmark will join Kenya and UNFPA in co-hosting the ICPD+25 high-level conference taking place in Nairobi 12-14 November. This will be an opportunity to consolidate 25 years of the ICPD. Denmark is truly honored to take active part in this landmark celebration and we invite you all to join us.

We look forward to welcome you there. Thank you.