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**Re: Implementation of Danish pledge to strengthen specific aspects of the Rule of Law made at the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law**

The Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to letter of 10 September 2014 (REF: EOSG/ROL/2014/1) in which the Danish Government is invited to share information on the measures taken to implement the Government's pledge to strengthen specific aspects of the Rule of Law made at the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law in September 2012. Against this background the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations has the honour to report the following:

***Commitment 1, regarding cooperation with a view to improving women's access to free, accessible and effective justice services:***

The Right to Services and Good Governance Programme (2014-2018) provides support to improving women's access to free, accessible and effective justice services in the following manner: Under component I of the programme, support is provided to the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and Judicial Service (JS) in order to protect and promote human and other legal rights, strengthen good governance at all levels and enhance access to justice for the poor and marginalised. Denmark supports mediation services provided by CHRAJ, which has proven to be an effective tool for poor women seeking justice on family, child and inheritance issues where traditional authorities are seen as biased and formal courts inaccessible. Judicial Service is also expanding gender based violence courts to more regional

capitals (four courts will soon be operational) in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in order to increase access to justice for women and children. Denmark also funds the expansion of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) across districts through Judicial Services. ADR along with mediation provided by CHRAJ provide more affordable and accessible avenues to justice services, especially for women and the poor. It is noteworthy that the majority of those who use such services are indeed women, who would normally be unable to afford legal services under normal circumstances.

**Commitment 2, regarding support to initiatives that strengthen and protect women's sexual and reproductive rights:**

Women's access to sexual and reproductive health and rights – the right of women to decide freely over their own body – has remained a focus area in the new strategic framework from 2014 for gender equality, rights and diversity in Danish development cooperation.

Denmark has continued to be a strong and vocal advocate for the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls in the political dialogue at country level, with multilateral partners as well as in international negotiations on global norms. And Denmark has continued to consistently argue the case for the right of women and girls and men and boys to control and take responsibility of their own body.

In 2014 Denmark was one of the founding partners of AmplifyChange which is a fund created to help civil society organisations advocate for policy change to improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women, girls and other poor and marginalised groups in the South. It is supported by the Danish government, the Dutch government, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. In 2014 Denmark contributed 82.2 mill DKK to the fund.

**Commitment 3, regarding continued support to UN Women:**

Denmark has increased its annual core contribution to UN Women from 20 mill DKK in 2012 to 60 mill DKK in 2013 and 2014 and contributed with an additional 3 mill DKK in 2014 to an innovation facility. Close dialogue with UN Women, including at ministerial level meetings with the Executive Director in 2013 and 2014, forms an important part of the cooperation with UN Women. In 2013 DKK 5.9 mill was allocated to UN Women to the establishment of a UN Women Nordic Liaison Office in Copenhagen, thus further strengthening Denmark's cooperation with UN Women.

**Commitment 4, regarding work for broad participation in political processes in fragile states:**

In the promotion of legitimate governance and social cohesion Denmark places state building and peacebuilding at the centre of interventions in fragile states, where interventions towards poverty reduction, social development, growth and job creation need strengthening. Alongside the goals of the New Deal for Engagement with Fragile States Denmark seeks to promote and enhance women's rights in specific country programmes within fragile states such as Afghanistan and Somalia. Denmark is particularly working to ensure full and equal participation of women in peace and state building processes to ensure women's empowerment and inclusion in political, economic and social aspects of reconstruction. In Afghanistan Denmark works to strengthen Afghan civil society organisations to advocate for improved good governance, in which gender mainstreaming is included. In Somalia Denmark supports the Ministry for Women, Human Rights and Development in developing the National Gender Policy incorporating an action plan for SCR 1325.

**Commitment 5, regarding targeted sanctions:**

Denmark along with other like-minded states on target sanctions have submitted by the end of 2012 and in 2014 to the UN Security Council suggestions on ways to strengthen the UN sanctions system by further improving fair and clear procedures, especially with regard to enhancing the scope and mandate of the Ombudsperson procedure.

The Permanent Mission of Denmark avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

Kind regards,



Christian Karstensen  
First Secretary