



Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 104 (b)
**Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing
for Development: high-level dialogue for the implementation
of the outcome of the International Conference on
Financing for Development**

**Letter dated 29 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative
of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit to you Denmark's first report on Millennium Development Goal 8, "Develop a global partnership for development" (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly under item 104 (b), "Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development: high-level dialogue for the implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development".

(Signed) Ellen Margrethe Løj
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 29 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Denmark's first report on Millennium Development Goal 8, "Develop a global partnership for development"

SUMMARY

This report is the Danish Government's first national progress report on Denmark's efforts to fulfil its commitments in relation to the eighth Millennium Development Goal.

As regards the level of development assistance, Denmark continues to rank among the leading countries in the world. In 2002, the percentage of development assistance was 0.96 per cent of GNP. Over the next five years, the Government will maintain development assistance at a level that means that Denmark will continue to be among the front-runners.

The quality of development assistance can be measured in many ways. Danish

Denmark has pledged to cancel all official bilateral debt and support further debt relief to countries that have been affected by, for example, natural disasters and similar events.

Denmark works to ensure that the rapid developments in information and

BACKGROUND

At the UN General Assembly in 2000, the Heads of State and Government adopted the “Millennium Declaration”. The declaration confirms the agreement of the international community on fundamental principles for peace, freedom, democracy, security, disarmament and development. The Secretary General’s road map for implementing the declaration sets out inter alia eight goals within the field of development – the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) – which Denmark supports through bilateral development co-operation and multilateral efforts.

The MDG are very ambitious, yet they can be achieved before 2015 if all parties make a contribution. The eight specific goals are:

1. to reduce poverty by half
2. to provide universal primary education
3. to ensure women equal rights and opportunities
4. to reduce infant mortality by two-thirds
5. to reduce maternity mortality by two-thirds
6. to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS and other contagious diseases
7. to ensure environmental sustainability
8. to establish a global partnership for development

Goal 8: Establishing a Global Partnership

Where Goals 1-7 primarily place obligations on developing countries, Goal 8 implies first and foremost that the industrialised countries¹ have an obligation to establish a global partnership for development. In the present situation, there is a particular need for action in the following areas:

The industrialised countries are obliged to increase governmental development assistance and to improve its quality, inter alia through untying assistance and donor harmonisation

The industrialised countries must further develop an open trading and financial system, inter alia through removing all obstacles to free market access of goods produced in developing countries

The industrialised countries must ensure that developing countries are granted debt relief

The industrialised countries must ensure developing countries access to modern technology, especially information technology

The industrialised countries must ensure developing countries access to pharmaceuticals

In the same way that national reports are compiled for all

0.96 per cent. Over the next five years the Government will maintain development assistance at a level that means that Denmark will continue to be in the leading group and which at the same time will ensure a stable political and economic framework for long-term and sustainable development efforts.

At the meeting of the European Council in Barcelona in 2002 the EU Member States decided to take a concrete step towards complying with the UN goal of granting development assistance at the level of 0.7 per cent of GNP as soon as possible. In this connection, the EU Member States agreed that the Member States that as yet had not fulfilled the minimum target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for development assistance would increase their assistance to at least 0.33 per cent by 2006, with a view to achieving a collective EU average of 0.39 per cent by 2006. In 2002, during the Danish EU Presidency, the Council called on the Commission to monitor compliance with such commitments.

Quality

The primary challenge facing Denmark with regard to Goal 8 within the field of development assistance is therefore to ensure that both Danish development

The publication of “A World of Difference. The Danish Government’s Vision for New Priorities for Danish Development Assistance 2004-2008” has placed focus on the MDG in Danish development policy. With the proposed refocusing of Danish

regard to the individual donor's contribution, the donors must ensure a higher degree of clarity and predictability than is the case today. The agreement implies the possibility of future participation of other donors (both bilateral and multilateral).

Denmark assigns considerable importance to the harmonisation initiatives. Since the agreement was entered, Zambia has assumed the required ownership of the process and shown great commitment. The initiative is ambitious and the process will take time, but the harmonisation of development assistance is the only way forward.

Untying Official Development Assistance

Denmark believes that development assistance must be as effective as possible. Therefore, in principle, it should also not be tied to conditions concerning the procurement of goods and services in the donor countries. As a definite step towards untying development assistance, Denmark has therefore announced that the rules contained in EU procurement directives from 1 January 2004 will be applied when goods, services and construction projects are purchased in Denmark for development assistance purposes. During the OECD/DAC review of Danish

While debt reduction should continue to be reserved for the poorest heavily-indebted countries, Denmark believes that there should be greater awareness of the individual country's needs for financing in order to avoid the countries that have benefited from the HIPC process initiative once more ending up in a debt trap. In this connection, the recently adopted grant aid through the World Bank can come to play an important role. At the same time, more attention should be paid to the capacity of developing countries to manage their own debts. Denmark will therefore work to ensure that the World Bank and the IMF in particular provide technical assistance towards debt management becoming an integral element in the formulation of macroeconomic policy.

The industrialised countries must ensure developing countries access to modern technology, especially information technology

For several years, the prevailing view has been that information technology can only benefit a small elite in the developing world. However, in the society of the future, we will witness a sharper division between those with access to information and those without. For this reason poverty-oriented development assistance must also seriously address the issue of information and communication technology.

Already in 2001, the UNDP's *Human Development Report* emphasised that it was necessary to get the new technologies to work for human development. The report made it clear that information and communication technology can help build bridges between the poor and the rich, but only if effort is made to ensure that the technology is not solely used for the benefit of the rich part of the world.

Information and communication technology as a tool in Danish development assistance

Denmark works to ensure that the rapid developments within information and communication technology benefit poor countries. However, this must not be a goal in itself but a tool for reducing poverty, where technology can contribute to the efforts to achieve the MDG. Developing countries must be ensured opportunities to gain access to relevant information and communication technology in the implementation of their national development plans. Particular emphasis must be placed on ensuring women the possibility to exploit the opportunities presented by the new technologies for increased income, information and access to health and education.

Before the end of 2003, Denmark will have developed guidelines for how information and communication technology can be integrated into development assistance, for example within the fields of education (eLearning), democracy and human rights as well as within the private sector.

countries to the markets of industrialised countries should be reduced. Finally, it