

Third International Conference on Small Island Development States (SIDS), Apia, Samoa 1 – 4 September 2014

Statement of Denmark by
Ambassador Ib Petersen
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN

Mr. President,

Let me begin by stating our warm thanks to the Government of Samoa for its hospitality and for hosting this Conference in beautiful surroundings.

The Conference should help us finding new and innovative ways to work together in order to speed up action in the quest for sustainable development for Small Islands Developing States. It is indeed timely and we welcome very much the focus on partnership and the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue.

The SIDS' face many special challenges in areas such as climate change, access to modern and efficient energy services and proper management and income generation from the use of marine resources.

Sustainability is **an investment in future economic growth**, new market opportunities and job creation. And it is an important social

parameter to secure stable and harmonious societies in which economic growth is not causing air pollution and degradation of water and soil.

The SIDS' and the EU share many common objectives and Denmark is keen on further developing our strong partnership. Indeed, Denmark and SIDS' are not so far apart, as it may seem for some people. And here I am not only thinking of the fact that Denmark consists of 406 small islands (and a peninsula.).

I believe we **share many common visions**. Share the vision of future low-carbon societies. Share the belief that economic growth can take place in conjunction with the reduction of fossil fuel based emissions. Also, we share common views on many aspects in relation to near-term action on climate change and a new international climate agreement. We appreciate our frank talks on these issues in various fora.

Denmark is a country that for decades has worked **towards a green society**. This transition is not an easy task. To succeed we need governments, the business community, and citizens to join hands. And we need to educate and innovate together.

In Denmark, **our ambition** is to become independent of fossil fuels by 2050. We have set a commitment to reduce emissions by 40 pct. in 2020. And recent analyses from the Danish Energy Agency document

how to fully decarbonize by 2050 and how the costs are actually manageable.

Today **wind power** contributes a third of the Danish electricity production. Already in 2020, it is expected that the production from wind turbines will cover more than half of the total domestic supply of electricity.

Having such a large share of fluctuating power production, however, brings challenges. In Denmark we have met these challenges by many years of continuous development of favourable regulations and system operation. The experiences we have today are to a large extent applicable globally and we are actively engaged in bilateral cooperation with developing countries to share our experience.

We are striving to **reconcile economic growth and sustainable development in an inclusive manner**. The Danish government has invited stakeholders to join so-called growth teams established to strengthen the competitiveness of Danish enterprises. Representatives of business, research communities, public sector and other stakeholders gather to discuss and recommend concrete initiatives to improve the conditions for growth.

Indeed, **engaging the business community** is a top priority for the Danish government. While governments can set up framework

conditions, the private sector can come up with concrete solutions, innovation and results.

By applying **comprehensive policy frameworks** the Danish government has nudged Danish private companies out of their comfort zones. We have pushed them into a greener and more innovative direction.

With this policy, several Danish companies are today among the frontrunners in the development, testing and promotion of green technologies and sustainable solutions.

All countries, including SIDS and Denmark, face different conditions and challenges. Nevertheless, we hope that the frameworks we have developed can provide useful inspiration outside of Denmark and we are indeed ready to share our experiences.

At the international level, private investors are calling for clear and credible signals that green investments will provide desirable returns. No signal could be clearer and more credible than an ambitious global **agreement on climate change in 2015**. An ambitious agreement to reduce emissions would help create the framework conditions we need to engage the private sector.

Another important part of the 2015 agreement will be adaptation. We fully recognize the importance of adaptation, and we have balanced our public climate finance between mitigation and adaptation accordingly

I would like to dwell a little bit more on this most important **climate issue**. Globally we are confronted with rising sea levels and a changing weather pattern. There is no time to waste. For SIDS' it is a question of survival.

Several **international processes on climate change** are just around the corner, which will be important for us reaching an ambitious global agreement in Paris. I look forward to cooperation and high-level engagement at the upcoming UN Secretary General's Climate Summit later this month in New York and at the COP20 in Lima, December this year. The Summit later this month will be an important step, mobilizing clear commitments for actions from both political and business leaders.

Action on Energy is a key to deliver on our climate commitments. The simple fact is that more than two-thirds of global CO₂ emissions stems from the combustion of fossil fuels. We have to tackle energy issues to tackle climate change. The good news is that we can use the same measures to achieve a large part of our climate goals by increasing energy efficiency and reducing the consumption of fossil fuels.

An important initiative in this regard is the UN Secretary-General's "Sustainable Energy for All" (**SE4ALL**). Denmark has from its start been heavily engaged in the initiative, and we strongly support the three goals of SE4ALL: to provide clean energy services to the app. 1.4

billion people without access to electricity, and to double the share of renewables in the global energy mix and to double the rate of energy efficiency. All goals to be achieved by 2030.

Energy is fundamental as a driver for economic growth. But how we produce and use energy has a profound impact on climate change. Denmark is proud to host the **Energy Efficiency Hub of the SE4ALL in the UN City in Copenhagen**. We envisage the Hub to have a pivotal role assisting the developing world gain access to knowledge on smart energy efficient solutions.

Denmark remains **committed to support SIDS' in transition process**. We have supported initiatives like the SIDS Dock Support Programme. A highly necessary and a promising example of how the developed world can assist nations most at risk.

I would like to use the opportunity to give my thanks to the Chair of SIDS Dock and the representatives from the island groups, as well as to the World Bank, the UNDP and the SIDS DOCK Secretariat for their commitment to this programme. Denmark is highly pleased to be among the first to support this important initiative, and we are considering to further support initiatives targeting SIDS. One example is a partnership developed at the Global Green Growth Forum, to be held in Copenhagen in October this year, focusing on developing a

viable business model for off-grid green energy solutions with the potential of being implemented and scaled in the SIDS.

In conclusion.

The **Millennium Development Goals** have shown the importance of guiding future developments in the right direction. **New sustainability goals** are in the process of being developed.

The world will next year agree on new Sustainable Development Goals for the Post-2015 agenda. The recent report from the open working group for SDG's is a good beginning. Many of the proposals address issues of crucial importance for SIDS', just as it recognizes the particular challenges/needs of SIDS' and LDSs. And they all build on the recognition that broad partnerships with all stakeholders are a precondition for achieving the goals.

We look forward to continue and to strengthen the cooperation between SIDS's in the process leading up to next year's Summit in New York.

Thank You.

