

## Remarks Transcript:

### Ambassador Martin Bille Hermann, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN

- Thank you, pleased to welcome you to this important event focusing on how we can best build effective joint approaches for monitoring and data gathering on the SDGs.
- We are entering 'the decade of action' at the same time as we unfortunately see that progress towards achieving the SDGs has stagnated or is even set back. To achieve the visions of the 2030 Agenda and the promise of 'leaving no one behind' **we need not just action – we need accelerated action.**
- Accelerated action requires: **A human rights based approach to implementing the SDGs:**
  - Human rights, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is embedded in the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. No doubt that when we take a human rights based approach to development, the results become more powerful, sustainable and effective. As identified by the Danish Institute for Human Rights more than 90 % of the 169 targets of the SDGs are directly linked to human rights instruments.
  - This underlines the critical need for strengthening synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the human rights – not just in theory but in practice. Integrating monitoring and reporting mechanisms is an important starting point. Timely discussions on this in today's event with outset in concrete experiences and best practices from Kenya.
- In relation, accelerated action also requires: **a 'Whole of Society Approach' to monitoring and reporting on the SDGs:**
  - **Inclusion as key word. Meaningful inclusion.** The integrated nature of the SDGs demands collaboration and cooperation across sectors and in partnership with local communities that understand best how to address local sustainable development challenges. Effective coordination is also key to avoid duplication of efforts and promote synergies. Partnerships can be harnessed to foster innovation, integrated approaches, solidarity and inclusivity, and actions to leave no one behind.
  - Critical to make sure that all voices are heard and represented, including minorities, indigenous peoples, LGBTI+. **Young people** especially important actors – when implementing the SDG's we are at the same time creating their future, they must be equal partners in this.
  - The discussion of how to include all groups of society in the implementation, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs is **even more needed in the context of Covid-19**. Unfortunately, we witness illegitimate restrictions on fundamental political, civil and social rights.

- With these remarks, I should have clearly stressed why I see the theme of today's event as both very timely and very relevant for accelerating action towards the SDG's during the next decade of action and hopefully already from today. Thank you.