

# **PLENARY STATEMENT BY DENMARK**

**on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2006 at the high-level meeting of  
the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Sustainable Development**

Thank you Chairman,

I would like to align myself with the statement made by Austria on behalf of the European Union.

Per capita consumption of energy in the industrialised countries is by far larger than in the developing countries. The industrialised countries have been consuming in an unsustainable manner for a long time. The unsustainability of this energy path is the main reason for the current problems that we are facing. The task for the industrialised countries therefore should be to identify and implement policies that can lead to the decoupling of economic growth from the use of energy and emission of green house gasses.

At the same time the legitimate and necessary right of developing countries to economic growth and increase in access to and consumption of energy has to be recognised. Therefore we need political instruments that will improve less carbon intensive technologies which can avoid the developing countries from repeating our mistakes.

Renewable energy and energy efficiency constitute an appropriate answer to the call for increased access, improved energy security and reduced environmental degradation. Subsidies by governments to the energy sector play a major role in the energy market. Without subsidies for fossil fuels, renewable energy would be much more competitive, if the environmental and social cost of energy are internalised. There is an urgent need to create a more level playing field for the different types of energy sources in the energy market and Denmark believes that it is necessary to change this imbalance. This would lead to a much stronger position of renewable energy in a free energy market.

In furthering the global share of renewable energy there is also strong need for mechanisms that allows for the sharing of knowledge and best practices, and coordinated approaches to renewable energy challenges. Denmark believes that the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC) is a crucial instrument in that regard. Through JREC some 90 countries have committed themselves to promote the renewable energy agenda in pursue of more sustainable energy policies.

As one of its main objectives, JREC aims at proposing a model for appropriate and effective follow-up arrangements after CSD 15 with the view to assess progress and advancing collaboration between governments. We encourage governments to give priority to renewable energy policies through integration into the energy mix and use JREC as a mechanism for identifying the necessary strategies and policies.

Mr. Chairman,

Differentiated time-bound targets are crucial – not only to promote sustainable growth – but also as a mechanism to guide business and industry decisions.

Moving from this review session to the policy decisions next year it is important to discuss modalities for an effective review and follow-up arrangement to be agreed upon by CSD15.

Thank you