

Minutes from meeting in the Council for Development Policy
on 15 April 2021

- Members: Professor Anne Mette Kjær, University of Aarhus (Chair)
International Director Jarl Krausing, CONCITO (Vice Chair)
General Secretary Birgitte Qvist-Sørensen, DanChurchAid
Executive Director Rasmus Stuhr Jakobsen, CARE Denmark
Senior Researcher Lars Engberg-Pedersen, Danish Institute for International Studies
Head of International Department Jens Kvorning, SMEdenmark
Vice President Bente Sorgenfrey, Danish Trade Union Confederation
Private Advisor Morten Lisborg, Migration Management Advice
Head of Department Kenneth Lindhardt Madsen, The Danish Agriculture & Food Council
Director for Global Development and Sustainability Marie Gad, Confederation of Danish Industries
International Director Marie Engberg Helmstedt, The Danish Youth Council
- MFA: State Secretary for Development Lotte Machon
Head of Department Nanna Hvidt, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
Special Advisor Anne Marie Sloth Carlsen, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
Chief Advisor Henning Nøhr, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
Chief Advisor Søren Davidsen, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
Advisor Britt Balschmidt Tramm, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
- Agenda item 1: State Secretary for Development Policy Lotte Machon
- Agenda item 2: Head of Department Rasmus Abildgaard Kristensen, Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate, GDK
Chief Advisor Dorthea Damkjær, Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate, GDK
Energy Adviser Rasmus Nicolas Viftrup Ringgård, Permanent Delegation of Denmark to the OECD
Head of Department Asser Berling, Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities
Head of Section Casper Due Petersen, Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities

- Agenda item 3: Head of Department Marianne Kress, Department for Migration, Stabilization and Fragility, MNS
Chief Advisor Gertrud Kümmel Birk, Department for Migration, Stabilization and Fragility, MNS
- Agenda item 4: Patricia Rogers, CEO, BetterEvaluation
Deputy Head of Department Henning Nøhr, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
- Agenda item 5: Head of Department Nanna Hvidt, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
Deputy Head of Department Henning Nøhr, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
- Agenda item 6: Deputy Head of Department Tue Krarup-Pedersen, Department for Africa, Policy & Development, APD
Deputy Head of Department Karen Grønlund Rogne, Department for Africa, Policy & Development, APD
Special Advisor Victoria Cordes, Department for Africa, Policy & Development, APD
Counsellor Anne Maria Madsen, Permanent Representation of Denmark to the European Union
- Agenda item 7: Minister for Development Cooperation Flemming Møller Mortensen

Agenda Item No. 1: Announcements

The Chair welcomed the State Secretary for Development Policy, Ms. Lotte Machon. The State Secretary expressed her anticipation to work with the Council, not least in the context of, hopefully, soon reassuming the tradition of the annual Council visit to a Danish partner country. Otherwise, she would be taking the relay from her predecessor including full ownership to all the ongoing processes aiming at improving Danish development cooperation with the aim of ensuring as big a print of Denmark in the world as possible. The State Secretary confirmed that the Minister for Development Cooperation would be joining the Council later.

Agenda Item No. 2: IEA Clean Energy Transition Programme 2021-2025

For discussion and recommendation to the Minister

DKK 50 million

Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate, GDK

Summary:

The Danish support for the IEA Clean Energy Transition Programme has three objectives: 1) to support clean energy transition in Danish priority countries and areas; 2) to promote energy efficiency in emerging economies (Brazil, China, Indonesia, India, Mexico and South Africa as well as regional organisation in Africa and South East Asia) and 3) to promote synergy with Danish bilateral energy cooperation programmes. Denmark will commit DKK 50 million from 2021-2025 for the programme.

The Council for Development Policy recommended the Danish Voluntary Contribution to the IEA for the Clean Energy Transitions Programme (CETP) 2021-2025 for approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation.

The Council recognized the critical role of energy efficiency to deliver on the clean energy transition and expressed strong support for a Danish voluntary contribution to promote energy efficiency globally. The Council found the project document well written and thanked for the overview of Danish support for climate change mitigation in developing countries also provided for the meeting.

Given the fossil fuel history of IEA, however, the Council enquired about the choice of IEA as a partner organization in clean energy transition. In this context and recognizing the importance of working within existing structures, the Council asked about alternatives such as IRENA and the regional development banks. The Council also asked to what extent the assistance was demand-driven, linked to the recipient countries' priorities and to what extent national political commitment in the countries was adequate to foster clean energy transition.

Furthermore, pointing to the need for bridging between mitigation efforts and poverty reduction and ensuring a just transition, the Council noted the weakness in this regard in the project document and in the choice of countries. The Council stressed that a successful green transition would require inclusion of civil society actors as well as dedicated focus on job creation, on the implications for the labour market and on the informal economy.

Regarding the selected countries for assistance in the CETP, the Council noted that these were not countries normally associated with Danish development cooperation. Thus, the Council was

interested in knowing why an emerging economy like China needed Danish aid to improve its energy efficiency and asked whether China was listening when it came to coal.

Finally, members of the Council asked about Denmark's core contribution to IEA and noted the importance of coordinating closely between the Danish bilateral energy cooperation present in the selected countries and the IEA's Clean Energy Transitions Programme (CETP) was noted.

The Head of the Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate (GDK), thanked for the comments and questions. Regarding the drivers, he underlined the importance of stimulating demand for low-hanging fruits by raising awareness which was an integral part of the programme. To illustrate, a study on Jakarta in Indonesia had concluded that emissions could be reduced by 20 percent by investing in existing technologies that could be paid back within two years. The country selection was based on large emitters with a big potential for energy efficiency and an existing association process with the IEA. He agreed with the need to ensure coordination between the Danish bilateral energy programmes and the IEA CETP to boost synergies. On the choice of IEA he noted, that IEA was the globally leading organisation on energy efficiency. The organisation had been through a significant modernization process in recent years, had boosted its focus on clean energy technologies and now covered energy systems in their entirety. This was an advantage compared to organizations with a more narrow focus on renewable energy such as IRENA. In addition, the IEA had opened up for collaboration with non-OECD countries through an association process and had established a Commission on Just Transition. Green jobs were important to political and public support for green transition. It was essential to harvest the big job creation potential within especially energy efficiency. However, IEA might not be the most appropriate organization to engage in labour market policies. He confirmed that civil society was included in the programme, including on training to ensure a whole of society approach to awareness raising on energy efficiency. Examples of results achieved were listed in page 6 in the project document.

The Head of the International Department of the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities underlined that IEA was lead custodian on reporting on SDG7.3 on energy efficiency. Poverty reduction and job creation could be included in the inception process. Country selection was linked to Danish bilateral energy programmes and country interest in being associated with the IEA. For example, IEA and India had engaged in a strategic partnership in January 2021.

Attribution and contribution in relation to results was challenging in all programmes. An IEA analysis showed that without energy efficiency gains since 2000, China would have used 20% more energy in 2018, emitting around 2.1 Gt more CO₂.

The CETP programme was a flagship in the organisational changes instituted by IEA's Executive Director. The Danish Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities chaired the IEA Commission on Just Transition for which the Danish Prime Minister was Honorary Patron. Concerning the Danish core contribution, he noted that the assessed contributions from member states were relatively small and had been nominally frozen for more than ten years. The Danish share was less than 1 percent or around 1.4 mill. DKK per anno.

The Chair thanked for the substantial replies, which addressed most of the Council members' concerns and concluded that the Council on that basis recommended the Danish contribution to IEA Clean Energy Transition Programme 2021-2025 to the Minister for Development Cooperation for approval.

Agenda Item No. 3: Women Deliver - Support to Strengthen South Voices on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

For discussion and recommendation to the Minister

DKK 30 million

Department for Migration, Stabilization and Fragility, MNS

Summary:

The purpose of the present programme with Women Deliver is to mobilize and empower women's rights organisations, young advocates, youth, and marginalised communities from developing countries and to ensure that these actors have the skills, knowledge and access to advocate for change for women and girls in their local environment. This work is combined with the creation of high-level political policy windows that bring investments in SRHR and gender equality to the forefront of the global political arena. The approach is Women Deliver's unique combination of capacity building efforts, evidence building and conference convening power. Through the support for targeted interventions to secure changes in ODA-eligible countries, Denmark contributes to the ultimate strategic objective of Women Deliver's overall programme; ensuring key global, regional, and national policies, programmes, practices, and frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), advance gender equality and SRHR.

The Council for Development Policy recommended the programme document "Championing Gender Equality, SRHR, and Girls and Women, Support to Women Deliver's Work Program 2021 – 2023" for approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation while drawing attention to (i) the need for strong oversight in line with the proposed financing model, and (ii) the continued need to monitor results of Women Deliver's advocacy approach and efforts to bring local advocacy representatives to the global stage.

The Council acknowledged the importance and relevance of continued support to the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls, particularly their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

At the same time, the Council thanked for the overview of Danish assistance for gender equality and SRHR provided for the meeting. In this connection, the Council raised a strong general concern about the risk of Danida's gender equality profile becoming too centred around SRHR and 1325, to the extent that other key topics on the global gender equality agenda like women's economic empowerment had been crowded out.

In relation to the Women Deliver project document, the Council enquired about the proposed financial model, pointing to the recommendation from the Programme Committee and the appraisal for a phased financial approach.

Furthermore, the Council enquired about the ability of Women Deliver to reach marginalized advocates and grassroots organizations in developing countries, and the extent to which these actors actually benefit from the capacity building efforts and participate in the advocacy opportunities provided. It was highlighted that women's concerns at local and international levels far from always are the same. The Council expressed support for the strong emphasis on measuring

results in the implementation of the grant to ensure that Women Deliver demonstrate the benefits of local to global partnerships and document the developments taking place at local and global level, which can be attributed to Women Deliver's work.

While members of the Council expressed general support for the approach and work of Women Deliver, concern was also expressed about the organisation's rather elitist and global conference orientation. In order to strengthen local advocacy, it was suggested to support one or more of the competent African women's organisations. It was also noted that many of the international NGOs and institutions that Denmark supports in various fields, have little ownership in the South. In relation to youth, members of the Council asked whether Women Deliver had any considerations in relation to legitimacy and representativeness.

Finally, members of the Council raised the issue of climate change and CO2 emissions as a relevant issue also for an organisation whose core activity was to bring advocates and decision-makers together and convene international conferences with a range of actors. Reducing the organization's climate foot print in line with the Paris Agreement should be a condition for support.

The Head of the Department for Migration, Stabilization and Fragility (MNS) thanked for comments and questions, and also for the acknowledgement of Women Deliver's work. On the issue of SRHR, she stressed that the high priority of the topic was clear in *The World 2030*.

Realizing that previous Women Deliver Conferences might have come across as somewhat elitist with high-level participants, the Head of MNS confirmed that it had been a key priority in the review and programming phase to target the visibility of local actors and their challenges and to ensure that the work of Women Deliver was demand-driven. Participation and capacity-building efforts for these advocates was the key objective of the suggested new engagement and Denmark remained committed to hold Women Deliver accountable in tracking the facilitation of real political change at the local level throughout implementation. Women Deliver's results from 2020, particularly in the inclusion of gender criteria in COVID-19 response at global and local level, already seemed promising.

She also stressed, that the grant would be subject to higher than normal level of scrutiny, with two annual donor status dialogues and continuous insight into yearly work plans and budgets. This would serve to follow Women Deliver's internal transition process closely and to ensure that Denmark makes better use of Women Deliver's data evidence, network and advocacy skills in its own policy work. The approach was justified by the Appraisal team as a way of providing both phased financing and much needed financial predictability for Women Deliver.

Concerning youth engagement, the Head of MNS confirmed that the Department would remain in dialogue with Women Deliver based on Danida's youth engagement toolbox. It would be important to ensure application of the selection criteria for the Youth Leadership Programme and for conference and panel participation. Finally, concerning climate change she informed that the forthcoming Women Deliver conference was expected to host only half the number of participants of earlier conferences and to be combined with satellite events and regional conferences.

In relation to the concerns expressed concerning the overall gender profile of Denmark's development assistance, the State Secretary for Development Policy emphasized that Denmark's strong focus on SRHR had affected the available resources targeting other and broader themes under the umbrella of gender equality, the issue was under discussion. Denmark was admittedly not very strong on the mainstreaming agenda. However, many of the indicators under other headings in the Country Programmes actually concerned gender equality aspects. The overview provided for the Council was therefore not entirely correct in mirroring the full picture.

The Chair concluded that the Council recommended the programme document "Championing Gender Equality, SRHR, and Girls and Women, Support to Women Deliver's Work Program 2021 – 2023" for approval by the Minister of Development Cooperation while drawing attention to (i) the need for strong oversight in line with the proposed financing model, and (ii) the continued need to monitor results of Women Deliver's advocacy approach and efforts to bring local advocacy representatives to the global stage.

Agenda Item No. 4: Important Issues and Global Trends in Evaluation for Development, Presented by Patricia Rogers, CEO, BetterEvaluation

For information and discussion

Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK

Patricia Rogers presented important issues and global trends in evaluation for development within four arguments on why doing evaluations well mattered; 1) it was complicated, so good thorough thinking was needed; 2) the global development and sustainability challenges; 3) the context was complex and 4) the urgency; the need for speed.

Development interventions were rarely simple. Contributions were often made into complex and broader development processes (many beneficiaries, many implementing partners, multiple outcomes) where it was impossible to measure the direct link between inputs and the development outcomes of the intervention (so-called attribution). Actions produced different outcomes in different contexts, so context sensitivity mattered when doing evaluation. A realist evaluation approach was important, not just to ask "what works" but rather "what works for whom (e.g. applying an equity or gender lens) in what circumstances".

More development interventions had multiple objectives – economic, social, environmental. New evaluation approaches needed to be applied in the complexity of mainstream sustainable development, e.g. footprint evaluations and holistic Blue Marble Evaluation.

Sometime development interventions were on a clear path to achieve agreed goals, but often they were managed under ongoing uncertainty for outcomes due to unpredictable change. This called for iterative learning and accountability loops as part of a responsive evaluation process. Here the PDIA (Problem-Driven Iterative Adaptation) approach was at its core and allowed to reflect, adapt and capture results in a changing context. Another approach was Real-Time Evaluations (RTEs). In all cases, a well-designed monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system was key for provision of timely and good-quality data to support ongoing adaptation, e.g. as part of the DDD (Doing Development Differently) concept applied by Danida.

Evaluations also needed to be pragmatic. Sometime there was a need for rapid pre-evaluations/ syntheses of existing evidence – with no time to wait for the perfect data-set and evaluation

design. The need to learn from the responses to the Covid-19 pandemic was a good example of a situation where the evaluation approach had to be agile. In the future, use of big data, machine learning and AI would likely enter the toolbox for evaluation providing initial analysis of data with fast feedback to operations.

The Council thanked for the insight provided by the CEO of BetterEvaluation. Members of the Council expressed interest for a continued dialogue on novelty approaches to evaluative work, e.g. the use of PDIA. The Head of the Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality (ELK) supported the view that new approaches to evaluative work were essential to roll out the DDD concept in Danida. There was a particular need for linking adaptive evaluations with good-quality monitoring systems.

Note: ELK is working with [BetterEvaluation](#) under a partnership agreement. BetterEvaluation is a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity, registered in Victoria, Australia and operating globally. It began in 2009 as an interdisciplinary public good project before incorporating as an independent organisation in 2019.

Agenda Item No. 5: Danida Evaluation Programme 2021-2022

For information and discussion

Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK

The Deputy Head of the Department of Evaluation, Learning and Quality (ELK) presented the Danida bi-annual Evaluation Programme 2021-22. The programme continued to be centred on the following thematic areas: Development Finance; Climate and the Green Agenda; Humanitarian Aid/CSO Support; and Multilateral Cooperation with the addition of COVID-19 as a fifth area. Specific evaluation themes would be identified to support the implementation of the development policy priorities, and linked with other efforts in ELK to improve knowledge generation and learning uptake (e.g. the Results Project, technical studies and research). Covid-19 and travel restrictions had underlined the need for building national partner capacity for evaluative work, and ELK had joined new international initiatives like the Global Covid-19 Coalition and the Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI) to contribute to this important agenda.

The Council expressed its appreciation for a well-formulated and ambitious evaluation programme. In general, the Council agreed with the priorities for evaluation in the coming two years and appreciated the inclusion in the document of a brief feedback on the outcomes of evaluations completed in 2020. The need for communication of evaluation results was stressed.

Members of the Council asked why specific issues/areas were not included in the programme and suggested ELK to consider evaluative work in the following areas: Democracy and equality, value chains, physical planning and the spatial dimension, youth, migration localisation across instruments, multi-bilateral cooperation, the comparative advantages of instruments, Nordic cooperation as well as multilateral cooperation, the latter based on the two recent evaluation studies on multilateral organizational strategies and general trends in multilateral aid. Members of the Council also asked about planned evaluations of country programmes.

Members of the Council also noted that the theme of development finance was focused on private finance. It was proposed to consider evaluations of more specific private sector programmes such as DMDP (Danida Market Development Partnerships) and P4G (Partnering for

Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030) and to look into private sector involvement in provision of water.

The Head of ELK agreed with the need to communicate evaluation results and informed about the new communication initiatives. In the case of the recent Climate Change Adaptation evaluation, these had included production of a short film to be used by social media and communicated by the Ministry's Communications Department and embassy web sites.

The Head of ELK confirmed that note had been taken of the specific suggestions made by the members of the Council. In relation to some of these, she and the Deputy Head of ELK explained the following: A major thematic evaluation in the area of human rights had been conducted three years ago. Now, an evaluation of gender equality was under preparation. Various aspects of democracy were cutting across the ongoing civil society evaluation in which localization was one of three specific themes. Under development financing, IFU was evaluated in 2019 and evaluations of the Danish Sustainable Infrastructure Finance (DSIF) and the Danida Market Development Partnership (DMDP) programme were ongoing while it was still early days for an evaluation of P4G. On water, a pre-evaluation study on support for access to water in Africa was under preparation. On migration, an evaluation of the just and human asylum initiative (ROHA) would require a monitoring system, which was not in place. A multi-bilateral evaluation under preparation (now in tender) would continue the efforts to look into support for multilaterals, not at least at country level. There would also be multilateral consideration if country evaluations were resumed in 2022. In addition, learning on multilaterals was regularly captured from the assessments carried out by MOPAN (Multilateral Organisation Performance Network).

Agenda Item No. 6: Insight into EU's Development Assistance

For information and discussion

Department for Africa, Policy & Development, APD

The Chair introduced the discussion by underlining the importance of coherence between the bilateral and multilateral track not least in light of the increase in multilateral assistance the past few years. The Council would therefore appreciate learning more about these considerable appropriations, including those from the EU. Knowledge about the multilateral allocations and other allocations which do not pass through the Council will enable Council members to situate the programmes the Council does see in context and this to give more informed inputs.

The Counsellor from the Permanent Representation to the EU and the Special Advisor from the Africa, Policy and Development department (APD) gave the Council an overview of the EU development cooperation. The presentation touched upon the new development instrument, the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), which merged a number of existing instruments. The NDICI aimed at making the financing of EU external action more coherent, transparent and flexible. The NDICI also opened up for Member States' strategic guidance of its implementation, with the aim of achieving increased complementarity with Member States' bilateral programmes as well as with EU's values and interests. Denmark had been welcoming this shift, which had potential to diminish the policy to practice gap. The NDICI's programming process took place on national and regional level. It was guided by the principle of "policy first", indicating that the programming had to be driven by EU's interest and values, as well as the principle of "Team Europe", to be understood as a

second generation joint programming aimed at closer coordination and cooperation between all of EU's actors. For the implementation of NDICI, Denmark primarily focused on Africa, climate and green transition, migration, human rights and democracy.

The Chair thanked for the presentation and the Council welcomed the Danish priority areas in relation to the implementation of the NDICI. Members of the Council then asked for clarification on a number of issues:

How many funds were earmarked for Africa? Were funds earmarked for specific sectors? Had climate funds been decreasing? Why was trade and investment not mentioned in the thematic pillar of the NDICI? Would the strategic guidance of the Council delay the implementation processes? What was the relation between the NDICI, the EU-Africa Strategy and the Post Cotonou Agreement?

Members of the Council also encouraged a continued focus on the root causes of irregular migration as well as SRHR and human development and asked for clarification on NDICI's new regime for migration funds.

Finally, Members of Council expressed concern that the EU anti-terror legislation prevented their organisations from working with certain civil society actors.

With regard to allocations, the Counsellor expected that the majority of funds in the geographic pillar would go to Africa in light of EU's prioritization. Funds were not earmarked for specific sectors. At the country level, especially in fragile situations, there was close cooperation between the EU and the UN agencies with considerable EU-funding being channelled through the agencies. But the EU remained more prudent when it came to central level funding of multilateral mechanisms. On climate change, the NDICI had an ambitious target of minimum 30%. Furthermore, a considerable number of Team Europe Initiatives were dedicated to climate. Denmark participated in several of these. In that sense, it could be expected that climate-related financing would increase in the coming years.

Regarding trade and investments, the Counsellor explained that there was a specific instrument for guarantees that did not appear in the presentation. There was also an ongoing process to reform the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which aimed at increasing investments in the least developed countries and fragile situations.

Regarding delays in implementation, the Counsellor replied that this was unlikely in practice, given that there would probably only be a limited number of strategic meetings per year.

The Counsellor informed that the EU-Africa strategy served as a policy framework for the NDICI. The Post Cotonou Agreement was a political agreement, and it was no longer an agreement based solely on development cooperation, thus funds would no longer be tied to it.

Concerning migration, the Counsellor explained that efforts were previously financed through the EU's Migration Trust Funds but would in the future be funded through the single instrument. There had been some concerns that the country programmes did not include migration to a

sufficient degree, even in cases where relevant. Some EU-Delegations had been asked to add more migration related efforts to their programmes.

Finally, the Counsellor advised a bilateral discussion to investigate if something could be done to address the situation with regard to EU's anti-terror legislation and civil society actors.

Agenda Item No. 7: Discussion with the Minister for Development Cooperation

The Minister for Development Cooperation opened the discussion by expressing concerns over developments in Myanmar and Afghanistan and asked for the Council's support to look into the possible scenarios for Danish assistance. In Myanmar, everything was force majeure. All Danish partners were in uncertainty or barred from cooperation. All Danish assistance had been re-directed to civil society. In Afghanistan, the hope was that Denmark could continue with humanitarian assistance and maybe education. In general, the Minister was looking to building an agenda focusing on prevention to ensure timely interventions. Regarding the new strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, the Minister informed that four rounds of negotiations were planned and that he hoped for a broadly supported outcome. Concerning COVID-19, negotiations in parliament on a fourth package of initiatives for the poorest countries were up-coming.

The Council shared the Minister's concerns regarding Myanmar and Afghanistan. In the light of developments here and in a number of other countries, the Council underlined the need for development assistance to be much more agile in the future. This could have implications for the choice of partner countries and implementing partners and for Danish presence and for the way evaluations were carried out.

Regarding Myanmar, members of the Council pointed to examples from their organizations' own work in the country, which only confirmed the seriousness of the situation and stressed the need for sanctions including against individuals. Bangladesh was mentioned as an important neighboring country to Myanmar, and the move towards concentrating of Danish development assistance in Africa was questioned. Members of the Council highlighted the role played by Danish NGOs in countries where Denmark no longer had an embassy, such as Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Members of the Council also pointed to the importance of the 2030 Agenda and the national SDG Action Plan under preparation, expressing hope for a strong international perspective. The need for synergies between agendas, strategies and instruments such as the new EU financing instrument was also stressed. The close relationship between irregular migration and the green agenda was mentioned as an example. Furthermore, members pointed to the need for careful implementation of the green agenda and climate change interventions and for increasing the share of bilateral aid in this area where the Council had witnessed a large flow of support for international funds and organizations.

The Minister confirmed that the international development efforts would continue to be framed by the SDGs and that the main tasks would be to reduce CO₂-emissions, and to reduce poverty and inequality. Climate change would play a big role with support for adaptation in poorer countries and for CO₂ reductions in richer developing countries supported by Strategic Sector Cooperation. Regarding the use of multilateral and/or bilateral channels, it was important to note that the destination or the partner country was the same. The EU would have to play an important role in regard to the synergies between irregular migration and the green agenda and Denmark

was pushing hard in that direction with a particular focus on the Horn of Africa, Syria, the Sahel and Northern Africa.

Regarding choice of countries and presence, the Minister stressed the need to be as agile and timely as possible. It was important to note that Bangladesh was becoming a middle income country, but no decisions had been made yet. He appreciated the role played by Danish NGOs as described. Denmark was a small country with a small foreign service and many small missions. Mutual support between partners was important.

The Minister concluded the discussion by expressing that he would reserve slots in his calendar to be able to continue the dialogue with the Council for Development Policy, and the Chair thanked him for the good and useful dialogue.

Agenda Item No. 8: AOB

No subjects were raised.