<u>Minutes from meeting in the Council for Development Policy 30 October 2018</u>

<u>Present:</u>

Members:	Professor Emeritus Georg Sørensen, University of Aarhus (Chair) Vice Secretary-General Tania Dethlefsen, The Danish Family Planning Association (vice chair) Director Jan Laustsen, The Danish Agriculture & Food Council Director Mads Bugge Madsen, The LO/FTF Council Associate Professor Michael Wendelboe Hansen, Copenhagen Business School Senior Researcher Lars Engberg-Pedersen, Danish Institute for International Studies
MFA:	Under-Secretary Trine Rask Thygesen, Centre for Global Development and Cooperation Head of Department Mikael Hemniti Winther, Technical Quality Support Head of Department Lotte Machon, Development Policy and Financing Adviser Mette Brink Madsen, Department for Technical Quality Support
Agenda item 2:	Ambassador Karin Poulsen, Deputy Head of Mission Sune Krogstrup, Special Adviser Mads Ettrup, Special Adviser Carla Greiber, Special Adviser Søren Knudsen Møller and programme officer Peter Fjeldgaard, Embassy Addis Ababa
Agenda item 3:	Ambassador Mette Knudsen, Deputy Head of Mission Nina Berg, Special Adviser Adam Sparre Spliid and Special Adviser Kim Schultz Petersen
Agenda item 4.a. and 4.b:	Head of Department Henriette Ellermann-Kingombe and Chief Adviser Henrik Silkjær Nielsen, Department for Multilateral Cooperation and Climate Change
Agenda item 5:	Head of Department Henriette Ellermann-Kingombe, Chief Adviser Henrik Silkjær Nielsen, Chief Adviser Tobias von Platen-Hallermund and Special Adviser Jesper Andersen, Department for Multilateral Cooperation and Climate Change
Agenda item 6:	Head of Department Stephan Schønemann, Chief Adviser Thomas Thomsen, Chief Adviser Jakob Rogild Jakobsen and Chief Adviser Steen Nørlov, Department for Humanitarian action, migration and civil society
Agenda item 7:	Head of Department Stephan Schønemann, Deputy Head of Department Marie-Louise Koch Wegter, Chief Adviser Mia Steninge and Head of Section Marie Brink Nørager, Department for Humanitarian action, migration and civil society
Agenda item 8:	Head of Department Henriette Ellermann-Kingombe, Deputy Head of Department Asser Rasmussen Berling, Special Adviser Jesper Andersen and Head of Section Thomas Ostermann, Department for Multilateral Cooperation and Climate Change
MEUC:	
Agenda item 4.a and 4.b:	Head of Department Maria Tarp, Deputy Head of Department Kim Porst Møller, Chief Adviser Asger Garnak, The Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate

Agenda item no. 1: Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda item no. 2. Country Programme for Ethiopia 2018-2022
DKK 995 million
For discussion and recommendation to the Minister
(Embassy Addis Ababa)

Summary:
For the period 2018-2022, Denmark will commit DKK 995 million in development aid to Ethiopia. The four thematic areas that comprise the Country Programme are 1) Agricultural Commercialisation Clusters 2) Coherence between humanitarian responses and development cooperation 3) Climate resilient forest livelihoods, and 4) Governance and human rights. The development engagements build on existing partners and results from previous years of development cooperation in Ethiopia as well as a number of new engagements, particularly within the thematic programme for governance.

The Council for Development Policy recommended the Country Programme for approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation.

The Council found that the proposed programme was coherently presented and that the programme document was characterised by a thorough analysis of the national and regional political context with an emphasis on the recent and positive developments in Ethiopia fuelled by the ambitious reform agenda of the Ethiopian Prime Minister. The increased support from Denmark was described as a positive and timely step.

The Council found that the programme in general provided a good justification for support to Ethiopia and that the choice of partners was well presented and justified. The Council considered the thematic programmes relevant. Members of the Council agreed that the context called for a need for a certain degree of flexibility and room for adaptive planning, and that the programme's relatively large share of unallocated funds would allow the Embassy to respond to sudden changes in the political and socio-economic environment. The Council acknowledged the honest and extensive risk matrix.

The Council complimented the integration of gender and youth across the thematic programmes as these issues were key to the future political and economic development in Ethiopia. However, it was noted that the programme could make clearer reference to the sub-goals of the highlighted SDGs and their targets as this would strengthen the measurement of results, increase the legitimacy of the programme, and support Danish interests in consolidating the SDGs. In addition, the Council encouraged the Embassy to ensure a high degree of coordination with other key donors in Ethiopia, not least the Nordic countries. A question was posed as to the reasoning behind the implementation, locality and funding modality of Thematic Programme 3.

The Council noted that the upcoming changes in the civil society law in Ethiopia was a step in the right direction and that, hopefully, this would allow support to civil society to play a greater role in the programme. The Embassy was encouraged to ensure that civil society was included in the rollout of the CRRF in the region.

In light of the opening up of Ethiopian economic sectors, the Council called for a strong involvement of the private sector in building partnerships with relevant Ethiopian counterparts. Decent work and economic growth formed key elements in the programme but a thorough analysis of the labour market in Ethiopia was missing. The Council recommended that the Embassy ensured that interventions targeting economic growth and decent work would be based on a better understanding of the labour market. As for the support to the commercialisation of the agricultural sector, the Council agreed that the support to ATA was highly relevant and that supporting small-scale farmers was key to the future economic development of Ethiopia. Finally, the Council emphasised that the increased support called for attention to the resources available at the Embassy for implementation of the engagements in the programme.

The Embassy underlined that the recent reforms promoted by the Prime Minister were indeed very positive and drew attention to the broad agreement among key international partners in Ethiopia to support the Prime Minister's reform agenda. This was recently underlined by the announcement of budget support of USD 1.2 billion from the World Bank. However, it was of course important to apply a realistic approach when engaging in Ethiopia as challenges within the country were still many and complex. The Embassy appreciated the agreement among Council members that the programme should maintain a relatively large share of unallocated funds to be able to respond to transformations in light of changes in the political and socio-economic context.

The Embassy explained that Ethiopia was generally viewed as a country with a great potential, not least in terms of attracting private investments. Creating jobs for the rapidly growing young population in Ethiopia was a key challenge for the government. Around 80 pct. of the population was currently dependent on small-scale farming, which made commercialisation of the agricultural sector – and thereby the Danish support to ATA - critical for increased economic growth and job creation targeting young people. The Embassy acknowledged that a labour market analysis would generate valuable insight into the barriers for economic growth and decent work – also within the agricultural sector.

The Embassy outlined that the locality of Thematic Programme 3 had been decided following a request from the Ethiopian Government, an analysis of other initiatives within participatory forest management in the country as well as an external assessment of the best funding modality.

The Embassy underlined that cooperation with other international partners was an integral part of the interventions of the programme. As an example, the Netherlands was a key partner in supporting ATA and the support to PSNP was characterised by a strong coordination forum among a broad group of donors. The cooperation between the Nordic countries was generally strong and would be strengthened even further within the field of governance where Norway and Sweden were already large donors to UNDP and UN Women. The Embassy would also look towards partnerships with other donors when programming the unallocated funds. In relation to this, further strengthening the support to civil society organisations was mentioned as a key priority by the Embassy. The Embassy acknowledged the need to employ the sub goals of the SDGs as a basis for the programme's interventions as this could potentially strengthen the measurement of results generated by the programme.

Finally, responding to the questions about the human resources available for implementing the country programme, the Embassy explained that the portfolio of the Embassy was indeed broad but that programme support functions (e.g. M&E) were currently being explored as ways of ensuring that the Embassy would remain able to pursue new opportunities and political dialogue with programme partners.

In conclusion, the Chairman found that the Council supported the programme with its emphasis on both long-term development and flexibility to act in the current political situation. The Council's questions regarding involvement of civil society, agricultural transformation and small-scale farmers, Ethiopia's ambitions in relation to climate had been answered and the Council could recommend the country programme to approval by the Minister. However, the Council stressed a concern about the Embassy's capacity to administer a programme double the size as intended and recommended strong focus on this – both at the Embassy and at the MFA.

Agenda item no. 3. Country Programme for Somalia 2019-2023

DKK 880 million
For discussion and recommendation to the Minister
(Embassy Nairobi)

Summary:
While Somalia remains fragile and affected by conflict and violence, it is gradually becoming more stable and encouraging progress in state building and economic and institutional reforms are emerging even though volatile. With the objective to support a foundation for a stable, peaceful and resilient Somalia based on inclusive and accountable governance and economic growth, Denmark will commit DKK 880 million under a new Somalia Country Programme for the period 2019 to 2023. The Country Programme includes three thematic programmes on 1) Governance and human rights; 2) Inclusive, private sector led economic growth; and 3) Protection, particularly of women and girls and action against sexual and gender based violence (GBV) including and female genital mutilation (FGM), and resilience through durable solutions and safety nets. A Durable Solutions Programme of DKK 100 approved in 2017 will be included in the programme. The three thematic areas will be complemented by engagements from the Peace and Stabilisation Fund, humanitarian assistance and other foreign policy instruments in accordance with the Policy Paper for Somalia 2018 to 2023.

The Council for Development Policy recommended the Country Programme for approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation.

The Council found the Country Programme well presented and informative and a relevant response to a challenging context. The Council appreciated in particular the consistent application of the SDGs throughout the programme, including the use of current and future SDG indicators.

The Council also commended the focus on resilience in the programme and asked about the regional mobility of people across the Horn of Africa. In this regard, the Council asked whether it was feasible to make the conditions sufficiently attractive for people to stay in Somalia. Moreover, the Council asked about political negotiations between the government and Al-Shabaab. The Council enquired whether the resilience-based approach could be relevant in other Danish priority countries and contexts as well. In addition, the risk-based and risk-willing approach of the programme was welcomed.

The Council noted that the context remained highly challenging and asked whether the programme was realistic and realisable, not least when it came to local governance, given the security situation and challenging state of rule of law based on traditional mechanisms and the disregard of minority groups. The Council noted that the high level of internally displaced (around 2.9 million), which were constantly exposed to shocks, led to a need for continued lifesaving measures that underlined the importance of the engagements aiming at setting up safety nets. Against this background, the Council asked whether it was relevant that the programme referred extensively to Danish values. On the other hand, the Council found that the resilience approach was sensible in the Somalia context.

The Council enquired about the fragmented political context and whether Somalia could be considered *one* country at all, not least considering the special situation regarding Somaliland. The Council noted that the programme amounted to almost DKK 1 billion and asked how the limited Danish presence in the country was taken into account when it came to implementation and monitoring. Further, the Council called for more information about the local partner of IFU as the Somalia context constituted a very different country context compared to other IFU engagements. It was appreciated that the notion of sustainable jobs had been further elaborated since the concept phase, however a strengthened emphasis on labour rights would make the engagement more balanced.

The Council commended the focus on women's rights and the clear focus on FGM in particular and enquired about how Danish funding would contribute to UNICEF's efforts in this regard. Moreover, the Council called for further information on the ability of UNSOM to contribute to the capacity development of the civil society given mixed experiences with UN in this role in other places.

The Embassy recognised the dynamic nature of the political and security situation in Somalia but pointed out that it was still possible to engage efficiently in this context and that the country programme by its design had considered the volatile context in Somalia.

The Embassy stressed that while the security situation certainly was challenging, Somalia was not in open national armed conflict. In many areas, it was possible to work also at the local level, and the Embassy emphasised that it was desirable to build stability from the bottom up – local to Federal Member States (FMS) to the federal level. Governance and service delivery at local level was key to Somalia's stability since tangible extension of government authority that would benefit the local population was believed to undermine popular support to al-Shabaab. For that reason, a number of reconciliation initiatives – some quite successful – were ongoing at local level. This was important since al-Shabaab apart from being a national threat was also benefiting from local grievances and lack of functioning government. The Embassy further noted that Somalia had come far compared to when the first Danish country programme was initiated. Somalia had now been able to conduct (indirect) elections and a permanent government was in place in contrast to the previous Transitional Governments. This had been recognised by international actors and international engagements had increased substantially together with a more continuous dialogue with the government.

The Embassy underlined that Somaliland was seeking international recognition and that it was not likely that this would happen soon. The country programme would continue to work with Somaliland and continue to have a Danida Office in Hargeisa.

Concerning Danish presence in the country, Embassy staff and new advisers would travel more frequently to Somalia. Furthermore, by renting an office and accommodation at the EU compound in Mogadishu, when the programme became operational, it would be feasible to work out of Mogadishu significantly more than had been the case so far. In addition, the country programme would continue to make use of third party monitors to follow the actual implementation of the programme and several of the engagement partners such as Danish Refugee Council and UNICEF were present in many local communities in the country.

The Embassy noted the Council's appreciation of sustainable jobs as key to stability in Somalia. Employment was a necessary alternative to enrolment in armed groups. This was supported through the engagement with IFU's investments in small and medium sized enterprises that also focused on engaging female entrepreneurs and employing young people and women. IFU worked through the Nordic Horn of Africa Opportunity Fund manager, Shurakoo. The structure had been subject to thorough due diligence both by IFU, other Nordic development funds and through the formulation of the country programme and the setup had already been operational for some time. Denmark also supported job creation through a value chains based approach and through institutional reforms. Denmark had supported and would continue public-private dialogue and work with chambers of commerce as critical enablers of economic reforms and improved business climate. The Embassy recognised that the focus on the union side in the sustainable job equation was limited. Labour organisations were extremely weak, and in many sectors non-existing in Somalia making it challenging to identify proper local partners.

With regard to the support to safety nets, the Embassy answered that this was part of the resilience approach of the programme. Humanitarian emergency response would continue to be needed but there was a clear need to ensure that the population to a much larger extent would be able to prepare and plan for new shocks to avoid a continuous poverty spiral. The establishment of safety nets and social protection programmes, even though being complex and challenging, were aiming at ensuring a buffer against future shocks.

The Embassy explained that Danish funding would roughly amount to USD 2 million out of an annual UNICEF Child Protection budget of USD 12 million. The advantage of Danish multiyear funding would be its predictability since most other finance came from emergency funding. That would allow more stable long-term partnerships with local partners working on Danish priorities related to addressing FGM/GBV and rehabilitation of children formerly associated with armed groups, e.g. kidnapped by al-Shabaab.

The Embassy accounted for the proposed support to the UNSOM engagement with civil society. The purpose was to balance the support to the Joint Programme on Human Rights that was focused on institutions with complementing support to civil society and platforms for dialogue between right holders and duty bearers. From previous close cooperation, the Embassy had a positive impression of the UNSOM human rights and protection group but the implementation would be followed closely. Furthermore, the budget would be limited given the catalytic character of the engagement rather than a full-scale capacity development support.

The Chair concluded by acknowledging that the Country Programme was a good response to the situation in Somalia and that the Council could recommend the programme to the Minister's approval. The programme would be implemented in a highly challenging context, but Somalia was also on a positive trajectory that created opportunities. It was noted that the Programme took into account the limited Danish presence on the ground through its modalities. The Council had raised a number of questions, including related to sustainable jobs, that were all subsequently well accounted for by the Embassy.

Agenda item no. 4.a. The Climate Envelope 2018: Support to CIF Technical Assistance Facility for Clean Energy Investment Mobilisation

DKK 95 million

For discussion and recommendation to the Minister

(Danish Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate, MEUC & Department for Multilateral Cooperation and Climate Change, MKL)

Summary:

Achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement as well as Sustainable Development Goal 7 on energy will require rapid scaling up of investments in clean and efficient energy technologies, the majority of which will include the private sector as providers of finance, technologies and expertise. The future role of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) in promoting investments in the clean energy transformation will increasingly focus on scaling up commercial investment through support for policies and regulations that help, for introduction of relevant business models and for reducing risks using blended finance. The proposed Facility will allocate DKK 95 million from the Climate Envelope to support the creation of a Technical Assistance Facility within the Climate Investment Funds (CIF). The objective of the programme is to assist developing countries in accelerating investments and market development of clean energy in support of their clean energy and low emission transformation. The focus of the Facility will be on enabling MDBs to deliver targeted, country-level support for investment-enabling framework conditions for renewable energy and energy efficiency, in particular those relevant to mobilising private investment. The programme is structured around five outcomes: 1) Enhanced energy-focused policy and regulatory framework for private investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency, 2) Financial sector and investment regulation increasingly conducive to financing of clean energy investment, 3) Increased adoption of business models and financing instruments that enable and de-risk clean energy investments, 4) Strengthened partnerships and collaboration around support provided to developing countries for clean energy investment and finance mobilisation, and 5) Increased use of integrated

approaches to support that address the "value chain" covering energy and financial policy and regulation, business models, de-risking instruments and project pipeline development.

The Council for Development Policy recommended the support to CIF to approval by the Minister for Development Corporation.

The Council asked for a clarification of the division of labour between the MEUC and the MFA regarding the Climate Envelope. The Council enquired about the rationale and added value of establishing a new technical assistance facility within the existing CIF and asked to which degree it could be considered technical support to the MDB's. The Council noted that there seemed to be too many layers and asked if the aim was an involvement from the MDBs and if that was the case, then why not work directly with the MDBs. The Council called for information about other donors.

The Council enquired about value for money and the comparative advantage of the CIF as well as possible alternative funding channels such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF). In this regard, the Council asked whether there was any interaction with the other funding channels such as GCF, IFU and the SDG fund. The Council referred to the possible application of a "sunset clause" in the statutes of the CIF and whether it was time to close the CIF as the GCF was now up and running. The Council noted that DKK 10 million had been allocated to cover programme management costs and recruitment of a Senior Energy Investment and Finance Specialist. In this regard, the Council asked whether this was an area where Danish experts could be involved. The Council noted that CIF had a broad potential scope of interventions, and, finally, the Council asked about monitoring of results, which often could be complex in TA-focused interventions.

On the rationale, the Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate (MEUC) responded that the approach was chosen to enable the strategic targeting/earmarking of Danish funding to activities, which enabled clean energy investment at the country level with a specific focus on countries with the largest mitigation potential. MEUC also clarified that TA support would be provided by the MDBs in response to demand by countries for support in achieving their targets and objectives as expressed in e.g. Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

Regarding alternative funding channels, MEUC emphasised that Denmark provided a significant and larger contribution to GCF. However, the GCF did not allow a similar targeting of the support. It was noted that both developed and developing country members of the CIF had approved the proposed Technical Assistance Facility. Concerning the "sunset clause", MEUC clarified that the CIF was "open for business" and would remain in operation for many years, regardless of any decision to activate the sunset clause.

With regard to the allocation programme management costs and recruitment of a specialist, MEUC responded that the Danish contribution would contribute to crosscutting CIF activities such as stakeholder engagement and learning/evaluation and that the budget enabled international recruitment of a Senior Energy and Finance Specialist. Administrative costs of the CIF Administrative Unit would be limited to 7 pct.

On the scope of interventions, MEUC highlighted that MDB proposals for funding would be based on focused thematic calls that addressed specific issues and barriers, and Denmark would be able to influence the strategic direction and focus through its seat in the Advisory Group and the CIF Trust Fund Committee. Finally, MEUC responded that the results frame of the Facility would track the country level developments in the key intervention areas such as changes in regulation and use of business models or risk mitigation instruments.

The Chair concluded that the Council had received clarification on the matters raised and viewed the proposed programme as useful and necessary aiming at providing clean energy and the Council could recommend the programme for approval by the Minister.

Agenda item no. 4.b. The Climate Envelope 2018: Voluntary Contribution to the International Renewable Energy Agency, IRENA

DKK 40 million

For discussion and recommendation to the Minister

(Danish Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate, MEUC & Department for Multilateral Cooperation and Climate Change, MKL)

Summary:

The objective of this development engagement is for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to enhance the global, regional (on ASEAN) and national use of long-term energy planning and scenario development. Long-term planning and solid energy scenarios are a key factor in ensuring the right policies and investments, which can speed up the transition to renewable energy. There are many opportunities to enhance the Danish bilateral engagement and core competences on the area by increasing IRENA's focus on the subject. ASEAN is one of the most dynamic growth regions with a forecast 50 pct. rise in energy demand by 2025, and ASEAN countries have begun to explore scaling-up of renewable energy. IRENA have signed a MoU for support of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation and there is thereby high-level political buy-in for the interventions in the region. Overall, the programme is in particular supporting low carbon development and support the implementation of the Parts Agreement on Climate Change, SDG 7 on sustainable energy and SDG 13 on climate change. The programme is also aligned with the new Danish Development Strategy as well as with the Guiding Principles of the Danish Climate Envelope.

The Council for Development Policy recommended the support to IRENA to approval by the Minister for Development Corporation.

The Council welcomed the contribution to the IRENA programme, noting that this was an important area and that analysis of energy planning and energy scenarios was under-prioritised. The Council noted the relevance of the project in relation to the SDGs and noted the expanded opportunity to broaden Danish key competences on energy planning globally in an innovative way through the key multilateral organisation to promote renewable energy. The Council was also pleased with the focus on emerging economies in transition and the specific focus on the important ASEAN region in terms of the potential to reduce further emissions from economic growth. The Council furthermore noted the innovative approach in the programme in terms of design and the focus on engaging with different multilateral platforms to enhance the effect.

The Council asked about the challenges with IRENA being headquartered in the UAE. The Council enquired about the opportunities to measure results and underlined the importance of ensuring a learning outcome. The Council enquired about the need for detailed planning of the programme and asked whether an organisational strategy would be developed for IRENA.

The Council noted that for future discussions of proposals under the Climate Envelope, it would be desirable with an easy readable version of the main elements of each proposal (apart from the programme document), since the energy and climate terminology was quite complicated to comprehend for non-sector specialists. Finally, the Council enquired about a general overview of the 2018 prioritisation of the Climate Envelope.

MEUC responded that in the early days of IRENA, Denmark had made a bid to be the host country of IRENA, but in the end Denmark could not compete with more generous bids from first Germany and later the UAE. The compromise had been headquarters situated in Abu Dhabi in the UAE and a quite big Innovation and Technology office in Bonn, co-located with the German Ministry of Environment. IRENA was currently a well-functioning organisation that delivered results globally to key international fora on energy such as G7, G20, Clean Energy Ministerial and the UNFCC process with ODA support from likeminded countries such as Norway, Sweden, Belgium, UK and the Netherlands. Being headquartered in the Middle-East region had also increased the ambition on climate and renewable energy in the UAE and other Gulf states.

In continuation, MEUC responded that it was a general challenge to measure effects from advice on policies in countries, but years of experience and a solid results framework - including the theory of change approach and IRENA's comprehensive monitoring system and ODA experience – had made it possible to track impact.

MEUC highlighted that the work in IRENA was a part of the general strategy for the Danish Ministries' engagement in key global energy fora that could drive change in particular the key emerging economies. Therefore, there was not a separate, traditional organisation strategy for IRENA. However, MEUC was currently in dialogue with MKL on developing a traditional MFA organisation strategy in light of the increased Danish engagement with voluntary contributions. On the need for detail in the programme document, MEUC responded that the detailed planning of the programme was a requirement in the DANIDA Aid Management Guidelines, but that flexibility was built into the design of the programme, including the choice of an inception phase.

The Chair summarised that the enquiries by the Council had been answered sufficiently and recommended the grant for approval by the Minister. The Chair stressed that the IRENA programme was highly relevant for the pressing climate change challenges and that solid analysis was a necessary element for change globally.

Agenda item no. 5. Organisation Strategy for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) 2018-2022
For discussion and recommendation to the Minister
(Department for Multilateral Cooperation and Climate Change, MKL)

Summary:
The GEF was established in relation to the first Rio Conference in 1992, with a mandate to preserve global environmental benefits. GEF serves as finance mechanisms for the Rio Conventions, e.g. climate change, biodiversity, desertification and plays an important role in achieving the aims of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 14 regarding life below water, and SDG 15 regarding life on land. Within GEF's mandate is also the umbrella organisation and host for five other funds including the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). The LDCF addresses the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that are especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. The total Danish pledge to the 7th GEF replenishment is DKK 450 million for the period 2018-2022. The Danish contribution to LDCF amounts to a total of DKK 150 million to be committed in 2019. The Danish commitments will be provided as core funding. The Danish organisation strategy for GEF/LDCF will provide the foundation for Denmark's strategic engagement with GEF/LDCF and set Danish priorities for the partnership.

The Council for Development Policy recommended the organisation strategy for approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation.

Following up on the previous agenda items, the Department for Multilateral Cooperation and Climate Change (MKL) listed the current interventions under the Climate Envelope and it was decided that MKL would forward a brief overview of the Climate Envelope interventions including short descriptions of each intervention.

The Council found the organisation strategy well written but would like to have seen more details in the main text and annexes such as more information on the GEF policy in gender equality and especially on how GEF at the country level coordinated on gender related issues with other sectors e.g. health and education. The Council asked whether the Danish contribution would be earmarked to specific interventions under the GEF/LDCF portfolio. The Council also asked about more details in terms of the level of concessional financing as well as GEF's comparative advantage and added value.

The Council referred to some of the main findings from the sixth comprehensive evaluation of the GEF, which was conducted by GEF Independent Evaluation Office ahead of the 7th GEF replenishment. Specifically, the Council was pleased to learn from the evaluation that GEF's project and programme performance was rated as good. However, the Council expressed concerns about the sustainability of results after project closure. The evaluation found that only 63 pct. of projects included in the evaluation were rated as having outcomes that were likely to be sustained after project closure.

The Council questioned the identified risks specifically concerning increased private sector engagement that could lead to reputational risks and increased competition from other finance mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund. The Council also asked about more information on the GEF policy on gender equality and highlighted the importance of carefully monitoring the implementation of the policy.

MKL underlined that the Danish contribution to both GEF and LDCF would be provided solely as core funding. MKL further informed the Council about the GEF co-financing policy, which stated that GEF Partner Agencies or other non-GEF sources had to financially support the implementation of GEF-financed projects. MKL agreed with the expressed concerns about the sustainability of GEF projects and added value and emphasised that this was an area where MKL would intensify dialogue with the GEF secretariat and coordinate with likeminded countries to increase focus on reporting on sustainability and highlighting comparative advantages. MKL explained that while reporting on the overall GEF portfolio was well executed there was room for improvement in terms of GEF's ability to capture and report on specific results at project and programme level. GEF was working on the ground through implementing agencies and was therefore dependent on quality reporting from these partners. Finally, MKL emphasised that gender equality issues were among Denmark's priorities for engagement with the GEF and that specific attention would be given to monitor the implementation of the policy on gender equality.

In conclusion, the Chairman noted that MKL should continue to work with the GEF Secretariat and through the Board seat to further improve the reporting of achieved results and added value of the organisation and found that the Council could recommend the organisation strategy to approval by the Minister.

Agenda item no. 6. Support to the Syria's neighbourhood: Lebanon and Jordan, 2018-2021
DKK 150 million
For discussion and recommendation to the Minister
(Department for Humanitarian Action, Migration and Civil Society, HMC)

Summary:
Support to the Syria's neighbourhood – Lebanon and Jordan, 2018-2021, is aimed at supporting a more conducive environment for refugees and host communities to live safe and dignified lives in Jordan and Lebanon, and, in light of developments in Syria, to support durable solutions, including preparing for possible voluntary returns. The support includes three separate engagements aimed at 1) strengthening the capacity of Lebanese civil society organisations to access and implement international funds for crisis prevention and management; 2) enhancing the capacity of government institutions to provide social services to refugees and vulnerable Lebanese; and 3) improving access to and use of quality health services for Syrian refugees in Jordan.

The Council for Development Policy recommended the programme to approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation

The Council found the programme document well written and the three suggested engagements justified and relevant. The Council called for a clarification on whether this commitment was part of Denmark's pledge for support related to the Syria-crisis. The Council found it relevant to support existing initiatives and asked in particular for clarification on issues related to the partner selection of Agence Française de Dévelopement (AFD) and the support to the Jordan Health

Fund for Refugees (JHFR). The Council found the new partnership with France through AFD interesting, and fully supported its focus on localisation.

The Council recognised the need to support health services for Syrian refugees in Jordan. However, the Council asked for a clarification about the role of USAID and other partners to the JHFR, in particular with regard to the Global Gag Rule. The Council also asked why water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) had not been selected as a focus for engagement, although this area had been described as a high priority. The Council asked whether south-south learning had been included and requested information on possible links to other Danish initiatives in the region, e.g. on youth and employment. Finally, the Council asked about the programmatic challenges arising from the fact that it is highly unpredictable whether refugees will return to Syria in a foreseeable future.

In its response, the Department for Humanitarian Action, Migration and Civil Society, (HMC) informed the Council that the Minister for Development Cooperation, in April 2018, had pledged a total DKK 730 million in new commitments in response to the Syria-crisis for 2018 and that the proposed DKK 150 million was part of that pledge. During the identification process, a number of possible engagements, e.g. for WASH, had been considered. However, for efficiency and administrative reasons, it had been decided to limit the number of new engagements to 2-3 engagements addressing immediate and long-term priorities for refugees and host communities, considering the fact that the refugee situation was likely to last for years.

HMC further responded that the new strategic partnership with AFD aimed at enabling medium-sized civil society organisations to intervene locally and more efficiently. Collaborating with AFD would create a new platform for strategic dialogue with France, one of the key development partners in Lebanon and in the region at large. This dialogue between France and Denmark had so far been limited, but it could have strategic value also for other engagements supported by Denmark. The strategic engagement with AFD was further relevant in a broader context given the new French humanitarian strategy, which had similar priorities and were in line with the Danish humanitarian and development priorities, including with a focus on humanitarian-development nexus, localisation, youth and women. The strategic engagement with France in Lebanon would be closely aligned with the Danish led European Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP), including with a focus on learning and south-south cooperation. The collaboration could possibly be expanded to other areas, such as Jordan with a focus on youth and employment.

HMC further explained that the JHFR in the health sector in Jordan was based on the Nordic+ model and an existing successful joint financing arrangement in the education sector in Jordan. The lessons from the education sector was that the approach enhanced national ownership and responsibility as well as donor coordination and the ability to have a robust policy dialogue. Establishing the JHFR would enable the Jordanian Government to revise the current policy and increase subsidised health coverage for Syrian refugees. It was underscored that no single donor would be able to dictate the policy and regulations of the JHFR. The JHFR would be providing funds for specific budget lines in the national health budget for primary and secondary health services to Syrian refugees in Jordan. The costs for Syrian refugees would be estimated on the

latest existing data covering Syrian refugees' usage of health services. HMC would ensure that the implementation of the JHFR would be closely monitored. The inception review scheduled for mid-2019 would also closely examine the developments with the JHFR.
In conclusion, the Chairman noted that support to Syria's neighbourhood continued to be relevant and needed, not least because of the expectation that the refugee crisis would continue for many years. The three engagements proposed for support were justified and the Council could recommend the grant for approval by the Minister. Finally, the Chairman noted that with 5.6 million Syrian refugees in Syria's neighbourhood, it would most likely not be the last time the Council would discuss support to host communities and refugees in the region.

Agenda item no. 7. Contribution to The EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF)
DKK 75 million
For discussion and recommendation to the Minister
(Department for Humanitarian Action, Migration and Civil Society, HMC)

Summary:
In 2018, Denmark will commit an additional DKK 75 million in development aid to The EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF). The EUTF is the only EU instrument designed to specifically target migration. It has ensured a comprehensive and multifaceted response, which in its totality has contributed significantly to, among others, reducing vulnerabilities and saving lives by protecting refugees and irregular migrants, and preventing perilous and futile journeys towards Europe.

The Council for Development Policy recommended the contribution to the EUTF for approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation

The Council noted that the EUTF was an instrument in high political demand and recognised that Denmark was one of the major member contributors. The Council asked how much other member states' contributed and why Denmark was one of the leading countries in terms of funding.

The Council expressed deep concern that addressing root causes and building resilience would no longer be EUTF priorities and that the EUTF would solely focus on border control and prevention of irregular migration. The Council questioned whether countering irregular migration was in line with Denmark's Strategy for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Action. The Council found it problematic if the majority of funds went to this type of activities, also in light of the considerable budget of the EUTF. The Council asked how to measure the development benefits and the goal of preventing irregular migration within the EUTF's line of work and enquired about coherence between the different EU migration instruments.

Also related to the change in EUTF priority areas, the Council stressed that the number of SDGs covered by the EUTF was limited and asked for information about how the EUTF worked to secure primarily SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth but also SDG 1 No poverty. Furthermore, the Council asked whether the change in the EUTF priorities would make it more difficult for Danish civil society organisations to work with the EUTF and thus be counterproductive in terms of the localisation agenda. Along this line of questioning, the Council also asked about procedures for identification of projects, tendering procedure etc.

HMC outlined other member states' contributions and emphasised that Denmark tried to encourage other member states to contribute to the replenishment of the EUTF by setting an example in terms of ambitious funding.

HMC underlined that root causes and resilience were to a large extend already addressed in the broad EU development instruments, and new instruments such as the EU External Investment Plan, thereby leaving room for the EUTF to target more specific migration efforts. Since the EUTF was established as an extension of the Sahel Trust Fund and therefore brought along a strong focus on root causes and resilience, EU member states had persistently advocated for downgrading this priority. As such, the EUTF was part of a comprehensive EU approach to migration.

HMC underlined that the EUTF did not spend the majority of funds on border control and preventive efforts. The EUTF delivered solutions to difficult dilemmas such as the situation in Libya, where thousands of irregular migrants were stuck under horrible conditions without chance of getting asylum in Europe. Under 1/3 of the EUTF funds went to migration management. Furthermore, HMC emphasised that the EUTF did target e.g. job creation and economic growth and had contributed to the creation of over 230.000 jobs.

HMC stressed that it did not foresee that it would become more difficult for CSOs to take part in the work of the EUTF due to the change in EUTF priority areas. HMC underlined that Danish CSOs were highly respected, and already represented approximately 14 pct. of the total CSO implementation in the EUTF. HMC explained the procedures for identification of projects and implementing partners as well as for tendering procedures. HMC mentioned that as a follow up to the EUTF report by the European Court of Auditors, the EUTF was expected to introduce a new light tendering procedure to make it more transparent for CSOs as well as other partners.

Summing up, the Chairman noted that it was evident that there was a large group of both irregular migrants and refugees that could not wait for long-term efforts aimed at addressing root causes, but were in need of immediate relief. The EUTF was a useful instrument to that end. The Chairman stressed that the questions from the Council reflected that there was a risk that the scope of the EUTF activities could be developed in a direction that the Council would be critical of. With these remarks, the Council recommended the new contribution to the EUTF to the Minister.

Agenda item no. 8. Continuation of Education in Emergencies Programme
DKK 150 million
For discussion and recommendation to the Minister
(Department for Multilateral Cooperation and Climate Change, MKL)

Summary:
An estimated 120 million children of primary and secondary school age are out of school today. In fragile and conflict-affected countries, 75 million children are either not in school or in severe risk of losing access to it. SDG 4 voices the promise of getting every child in the world into school and learning by 2030, and the achievement of SDG 4 is considered a prerequisite for the fulfilment of all SDGs. Both UNICEF and Education Cannot Wait (ECW) are strongly positioned to help achieve SDG 4, especially for the most marginalised girls in crises. Denmark's extraordinary contribution to UNICEF in 2018 is soft-earmarked to the agency's education programmes in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali, whereas the extraordinary contribution to ECW is core contribution aimed at the Fund's entire portfolio of education programmes in fragile and conflict affected states.

The Council for Development Policy recommended the programme for approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation

The Council commended the programme and agreed that the need for education, especially in crises, was immense. As such, extraordinary Danish contributions to education were well placed. The Council asked about the creation and establishment of ECW and how it was different from e.g. UNICEF and what the added value was. The Council asked about ECW's approach to raising additional financing and the related innovative approach to this. The Council asked why ECW had not spent all of its funds and what results had been achieved so far.

The Council noted that ECW had a gender strategy and enquired about more information on this. The Council asked whether ECW also focused on vocational training and education initiatives aimed at providing jobs once school was completed. The Council asked if the UNICEF part of the programme was aligned with Denmark's country programmes in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali. Finally, as education was an area where Denmark strengthened its support, the Council would welcome a more strategic discussion on this issue at a later stage.

MKL informed that ECW's primary focus was on the most marginalised persons in crises, especially girls. However, the Fund also to some extent incorporated vocational training and job-preparedness. MKL informed that the education support in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger was aligned with Danish geographical priorities and complemented Danish supported health programmes in the three countries.

MKL pointed out that organisations such as Global Partnership for Education, UNHCR and UNICEF had recommended the establishment of a fund dedicated to education delivery in fragile and conflict-affected states. The purpose of ECW was to bridge the gap between the humanitarian and development assistance, and it had already demonstrated an ability to respond quickly to situations of crisis. MKL informed that ECW was focused on greater inclusion of non-traditional donors, e.g. the private sector, and looked to new, innovative partnerships to address the challenges of education delivery in crises. ECW looked at how e.g. the use of modern technology could support the Fund's work.

MKL informed the Council that ECW had not spent all of its funds available and that ECW was projected to launch a number of new multi-year resilience programmes in 2019, which would require extensive funding. Given the increased foreseen Danish funding to ECW, a Danish organisation strategy for ECW would be developed in 2019.

The Chairman concluded that the Council's questions regarding the organisations' core competences and their added value had been adequately answered and that the Council could support the continuation of the Education in Emergencies Programme and would recommend it to the Minister for approval. However, the Chair stressed that the programme documentation would have benefitted from a clearer overview of the specific elements including a budgetary overview. Finally, the Chair also highlighted that the Council would welcome a strategic discussion on Denmark's support to education in the future.

Agenda item no. 9: AOB.

Some Council members raised a concern about the issue of securing that the Council was able to form a quorum. It was decided to discuss this at a future meeting.