

Minutes from meeting in the Council for Development Policy
on 27 January 2022

- Members: Professor Anne Mette Kjær, University of Aarhus (Chair)
International Director Jarl Krausing, CONCITO (Vice Chair)
Senior Researcher Lars Engberg-Pedersen, Danish Institute for International Studies
General Secretary Birgitte Qvist-Sørensen, DanChurchAid
Executive Director Rasmus Stuhr Jakobsen, CARE Denmark
Vice President Bente Sorgenfrey, Danish Trade Union Confederation
Director for Global Development and Sustainability Marie Gad, Confederation of Danish Industries
Head of International Department Jens Kvorning, SMEdenmark
Head of Department Kenneth Lindhardt Madsen, The Danish Agriculture & Food Council
- MFA: Under-Secretary for Development Policy Stephan Schönemann
Head of Department Signe Skovbakke Winding Albjerg, Department for Africa, Policy and Development, APD
Head of Department Tove Degnbol, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
Special Advisor Anne Marie Sloth Carlsen, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
Student Assistant Ida Meldgaard Justesen, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
- Agenda item 2: Head of Department Karin Poulsen, Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate, GDK
Head of Section Ninna Katrine Sanden, Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate, GDK
Chief Advisor Silke Mason Westphal, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
Ambassador Ole Thonke, Nairobi
Head of Department Henrik Hedeman Olsen, Ministry of Environment
Team Leader Mads Thelander, Ministry of Environment
Senior Advisor Mona Westergaard, Ministry of Environment
- Agenda item 3: Head of Department Karin Poulsen, Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate, GDK
Head of Section Lone B. Jensen, Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate, GDK
Chief Advisor Torben Traustedt Larsen, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
Ambassador Kim Højlund Christensen, Hanoi
Ambassador Tobias Elling Rehfeld, Pretoria
Deputy Head of Mission Jacob Stensdal, Pretoria

Head of Department Asser Rasmussen Biering, Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities
Head of Department Ole Emmik Sørensen, the Danish Energy Agency
Head of Department Ulrik Eversbusch, the Danish Energy Agency
Special Advisor Andreas Karlsen, the Danish Energy Agency

Agenda item 4: Head of Department Karin Poulsen, Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate, GDK
Head of Section Lone B. Jensen, Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate, GDK
Chief Advisor Torben Traustedt Larsen, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK
Ambassador Lars Bo Larsen, Jakarta
Head of Department Asser Rasmussen Biering, Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities
Head of Department Ole Emmik Sørensen, the Danish Energy Agency
Special Advisor Andreas Karlsen, the Danish Energy Agency
Special Advisor Anders Kruse, the Danish Energy Agency

Agenda item 5: Ambassador Rolf Hay Pereira Holmboe, Embassy in Bamako
Deputy Head of Mission Niels Bossen, Embassy in Bamako
First Secretary Astrid Melchior Olesen, Embassy in Bamako
Chief Financial Officer, Mirja Matilde Crone, Embassy in Bamako
Chief Advisor Anne-Catherine Legendre, Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality, ELK

Agenda Item No. 1: Announcements

The Under-Secretary for Development Policy updated the Council on development issues relating to Kosovo and the situation in the Sahel. He briefly informed about the selection of 18 Strategic Partnerships (SPA) for the period 2022-2025. The Under-Secretary also updated the Council on the drafting of the How-to-Notes intended to guide the implementation of the new strategy “The World We Share”, including when the drafts would be presented to the Council for discussion.

The Head of the Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality (ELK) informed that the Minister for Development Cooperation in late December 2021 had approved an additional allocation of DKK 19.1 million for the CGIAR (formerly the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research) following electronic recommendation by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council. The DKK 19.1 million were research funds left unallocated due to the situations in Afghanistan and Ethiopia and due to fewer qualified applications than expected in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic under the Building Stronger Universities Programme. Denmark had supported the CGIAR since the 1970s, most recently with DKK 30 million in the period 2020-2022. Members of the Council agreed with the procedure of sending the additional grant in electronic procedure with the Chairmanship and stressed the importance of agility in such situations.

Members of the Council enquired about the role of the Council for Development Policy in regard to the development funds granted to projects under the Peace and Stabilisation Fund (PSF) and asked about the coherence of the development funding system. Members further enquired about the new allocations to Ukraine and the Bay of Guinea from the PSF.

The Under-Secretary for Development Policy informed that the development aid funds constituted around 80% of the funds granted to projects under the PSF, and that the Minister for Development Cooperation approved funding from the PSF based on recommendations from an inter-ministerial steering committee. The PSF and its funding procedures were currently undergoing an independent evaluation. He agreed that coherence was important.

Agenda Item No. 2: UNEP Organisation Strategy 2022-2025

For discussion and recommendation to the Minister

DKK 200 million

Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate, GDK

Summary:

Since its establishment in 1972, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has been the leading global environmental authority, keeping the world environment under review, serving as an advocate for the global environment and coordinating environmental issues within the UN. UNEP's new Medium Term Strategy 2022-2025 takes its starting point from the three planetary crises: Climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution. Based on this, the new Danish organisation strategy for UNEP outlines key priority areas and results to be achieved in the Danish cooperation with UNEP 2022-2025, namely: 1. Green Transition, specifically water resource management, sustainable energy, sustainable food systems; 2. Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions, specifically ecosystem restoration and the Global Biodiversity Framework; 3. Sustainable Consumption and Production, specifically SGD 12, chemicals and waste, plastic pollution and marine litter and One Health; and 4. A More Effective and Efficient UNEP, specifically concrete results and impact, UNEP's normative and scientific role, funding flexibility, and gender and human rights. The proposed Danish core contribution to UNEP for 2022-2025 is DKK 200 million, making Denmark the fourth largest donor to the Environment Fund.

<p><i>The Council for Development Policy recommended the UNEP Organisation Strategy 2022-2025 for approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation.</i></p>

The Council emphasised the importance of UNEP and the relevance of the environmental agenda, and recognized that the organisation played an increasingly important role internationally and in the UN system and was a very important partner to Denmark.

Members of the Council found it timely and relevant in light of recent global commitments in nature, biodiversity and climate, and in line with the further greening of the Danish development assistance, including UNEP's role herein, under a Danish leadership, to increase the contribution to UNEP even further in the period. Members of the Council also stressed the importance of un-earmarked contributions noting that more than half of the total Danish contribution to UNEP would be earmarked to various projects and programmes. At the same time, Members of the Council also argued that the Danish contribution to UNEP should not be given without conditions, specifically related to supporting the organisation and improving its efficiency. Therefore, Members enquired about the considerations behind wanting to provide core funding and at the same time trying to further Danish priorities. There is a risk that priorities, if pursued

inflexibly, could bias UNEP's work like earmarked contributions. Members of the Council also expressed some concern with regard to UNEP's theory of change and asked how UNEP's normative work translated into results. Members of the Council furthermore asked for clarification regarding the nature of the discussions of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

Members of the Council emphasised the importance of exploring collaboration with UNEP beyond financial contributions, e.g. through private sector partnerships around Danish technological and other solutions as well as possible synergies with Danish bilateral development cooperation programmes.

Members of the Council asked about Denmark's approach to gender and human rights in the context of UNEP's work, in light of various evaluations showing a need for an increased focus on these issues. Women as key agents of change was highlighted. Additionally, Members of the Council stressed the importance of ensuring a poverty reduction perspective in UNEP's work, and asked whether UNEP had an increasing focus on this. Members of the Council also pointed to the importance of using the term 'green and just transition' throughout the strategy rather than only speaking about 'green transition'.

Members of the Council pointed to areas where UNEP's contribution would be welcomed. The 'loss and damage' agenda of the Paris Agreement was one such area. The circular economy was another where UNEP had an important role to play in terms of getting the regulation of new technological solutions right. UNEP could also contribute further to environmental economics, including through value chain analyses, and a better understanding of the value of natural capital. Furthermore, Members of the Council emphasised that the issue of marine pollution should be understood more broadly than solely plastic pollution.

Finally, Members of the Council stressed that the terms 'nexus' and 'nexus approach' were not used in a consistent manner in the draft organisation strategy and asked that this would be corrected.

The Head of the Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate (GDK) outlined the proposed contribution to UNEP in relation to the balance between core and earmarked funding. Core funding was immensely important for UNEP, and Denmark would contribute with core funding as long as possible. An analysis in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) was ongoing, related to the fact that UNEP was a normative organisation delivering a global public good. As such, UNEP was not a traditional implementing organisation. Rather, UNEP cooperated closely with other organisations such as the UN Development Programme (UNDP) on the implementation of projects on the ground. In fact, such cooperation through inter alia the UN system had been strengthened during the term of UNEP's current Executive Director. The Head of GDK agreed that partnerships with Danish stakeholders were key, and furthermore supported the idea of involving UNEP in the loss and damage agenda. The comments on women, just transition and nexus approaches were duly noted. The Head of GDK furthermore explained that Denmark's total contribution to UNEP over the next four years – including to the two UNEP centres in Denmark - would amount to about half a billion Danish kroner.

The Ambassador to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP stressed that there was a major focus on creating results in UNEP, which had been enhanced by the current Executive Director. He gave examples of synergies with bilateral Danish development cooperation programmes in Kenya and Somalia and confirmed that poverty reduction efforts was a focus in UNEP, also on a political level. Regarding the CPR, the Ambassador clarified that as in any multilateral organisation, there were discussions between groups of countries and not always agreement on the importance of a certain topic or the approach to take.

The Head of the Department for EU and International Affairs (EUI) in the Ministry of Environment emphasised the good and close collaboration on UNEP between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He agreed that UNEP was increasingly a key player in the UN. The Senior Advisor in EUI explained how UNEP's work was primarily guided by resolutions in the UN Environment Assembly. The financial dimension of environmental governance was an important agenda, which UNEP was working on. Regarding circular economy and value chains, UNEP's key abilities were within the normative field by making recommendations and supporting countries in their implementation.

Finally, the Under-Secretary for Development Policy underlined the trade-off between core and earmarked funding, in particular how core contributions were more difficult to follow, while earmarked contributions could challenge the organisation.

The Chair of the Council concluded that the Council could recommend the Danish Organisation Strategy for the UN Environment Programme 2022-2025 for approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation.

Agenda Item No. 3: The Danish Energy Partnership Programme III (DEPP 3) – Enhanced Engagements in South Africa and Vietnam

For discussion and recommendation to the Minister

DKK 46.4 million

Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate, GDK

Summary:

The Danish Energy Partnership Programme (DEPP) III was approved in October 2020 with a total budget of DKK 250 million covering a five-year programme in China, Mexico, South Africa and Vietnam. The enhanced engagement contributes to the strategic objective of DEPP III, which is: “The partnership countries achieve low carbon development, implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and continue upscaling and realising their NDC goals”. The project enhances outcomes of DEPP III in South Africa and Vietnam.

In South Africa, the project will consolidate the fourth and final phase of the national Wind Atlas (WASA 4) and provide input to the work of the Just Transition Partnership coordination of the COP 26 donor pledge for phasing out coal in South Africa (26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties). To avoid further investments in renovating outdated coal plants - or in the construction of new ones – the Department of Mineral Resources and Minerals needs the Wind Atlas information in order to plan for an alternative green development. In Vietnam, the project will allow the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) to combine a new regulatory framework for energy efficiency incentives (supported by DEPP III) with piloting of energy audits in up to 100 enterprises in the most energy intensive industries. MOIT will promote a World Bank financing mechanism in

support of recommendations of the energy audits. Together with MOIT, the project will develop a Centre of Excellence for energy efficiency that will serve as a hub for findings and best practices of applying the energy audits.

The Council for Development Policy recommended the Danish Energy Partnership Programme III (DEPP 3) – Enhanced Engagements in South Africa and Vietnam for approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation while at the same time noting shortcomings in relation to socioeconomic analysis and just transition, as well as the poverty reduction and gender aspects of the engagement.

The Council commended the project for focusing on the sub-national level and for piloting aspects of the overall Danish Energy Partnership Programme (DEPP) III engagement, bringing DEPP III closer to measurable impact with regard to Greenhouse gases (GHG) reduction. The Council emphasized energy efficiency as a very relevant topic in the green and just transition of the energy sector.

At the same time, however, the Council found that the project document lacked proper socioeconomic analysis and understanding of the challenges related to actually ensuring a just transition, especially considering that these are funds for development cooperation. Such an analysis should include considerations about poverty alleviation as part of a just green transition. It could also include identification of possible ways in which the green transition could create more jobs, including jobs for women, and promote gender equality.

Members of the Council referred to South Africa where the public debate on green and just transition was no longer divided between opponents against or in favour of a green transition, but more on *how to* make a just and green transition. This was a very positive development. The consequences of a green energy transition on unemployment rates and opposition from strong political interests in the coal sector were, however, not analysed sufficiently in the document. Social mobilization and unrest was a likely scenario and could have been included in the analysis of risks. Furthermore, Members of the Council stressed the need to engage in a critical dialogue with the partner authorities regarding corruption and land rights issues.

Members of the Council questioned the choice of the World Resources Institute (WRI) as a partner for providing relevant socio-economic analysis and recommended that local partners and stakeholders with relevant competencies were also consulted about local conditions. Recent reports from the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on integrated community development in the context of green and just energy transition were highlighted by Members of the Council. Members found that national trade unions should be part of the dialogue about the transition and also recommended consultations with the Danish Labour Market Consortium. Other recommendations from Members of the Council were to include a campaign of general public education in the project in both South Africa and in Vietnam - and in the case of Vietnam to establish a focus group of relevant Danish companies in support of the overall DEPP III objectives and for exploring opportunities for trade and investments. Finally, Members enquired about the amount of unallocated funds, which were not discussed in the programme document.

Regarding poverty reduction and gender equality, the Council noted that it had already addressed shortcomings in these areas in 2020 when the DEPP III Programme had been presented. The Council expressed strong concern that the enhanced engagement did not properly address the

concerns previously expressed. Understanding the impact on poverty and gender of e.g. the phasing out of coal production was part and parcel of also making the green transition a just transition.

Finally, regarding collaboration and division of labour between the Danish Energy Agency and MFA, Members of the Council found that MFA had a particular role in making sure that “The World We Share” was brought to bear on all development engagements.

The Head of the Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate (GDK) thanked the Council for the relevant and constructive remarks and recommendations. GDK and the Danish Energy Agency would discuss how to incorporate those in the implementation of the project. She assured that the concerns of the Council were duly noted, considered and reflected in the project design for example through support to the presidential climate commission in South Africa or through relevant environmental and social assessments during preparation of concrete energy efficiency projects in Vietnam. It was a key task of the Sector Advisor at the Embassy and the Danish Energy Agency to identify and respond to concrete local opportunities of strengthening participation and inclusion of civil society during project implementation. Likewise, it was the role of the Embassy to engage in dialogue with the authorities regarding corruption and relevant land rights issues. The concrete contribution to improving choice and opportunities of the poorest depended on the concrete initiative and the local partners involved. Unallocated funds were included to ensure the necessary adjustments of programme activities during implementation.

The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities stressed that in the context of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) negotiations, the government-to-government cooperation gave Denmark a strong position as a trusted partner vis-à-vis the countries around the table, demonstrating that Denmark was ready to assist and provide solutions to the challenges faced by individual countries. The Ministry was in dialogue with many competent international partners. The Danish Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities was e.g. Chairman of the Just Transition Commission of the International Energy Agency, which recently published a catalogue of best practices of green transition initiative for the energy sector. The design of the project and the provisions of allocated funds would allow the project to engage with relevant international organisations specialising in different aspect of green transition, as well as with local universities and to respond to concerns of civil society in a flexible and adaptive management of the project.

The Ambassador to Pretoria outlined the severe consequences of the pandemic in South Africa resulting in a rise in unemployment rate and increased CO₂ emissions. It was estimated that the country was in need of 4-6 gigawatt (GW), resulting in frequent power cuts. The DEPP III provided a credible response to the situation – also in the Mpumalanga province, which was a priority of the COP 26 donor pledge (26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties). The effort to establish a Just Transition Partnership was still in its early days and the Embassy was following the work closely.

In Vietnam, the DEPP III was the “flagship” of the Danish climate diplomacy. The Ambassador stressed the importance of the cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, which was also the main partner to the Trade Council. In connection with the upcoming export promotion for Off Shore Wind, the main purpose were for the invited participants to gain confidence in the

regulative framework of the sector. The knowledge and analysis obtained by DEPP III was key to the Embassy.

The Danish Energy Agency pointed out that the energy audits and the prospects of facilitating financing of energy efficient solutions in Vietnamese enterprises represented the carrot in the combined efforts of improving the regulative framework and strengthening compliance with the law. The peer-to-peer modality was placing the Danish Energy Agency in the machine room of the partners, providing access to information and data needed for effective capacity building of the partner organization.

The Chair of the Council thanked for the thorough answers and noted that the project was clearly demand driven and that the project was an in-depth enhancement of the existing DEPP III, placing the project activities in the provincial context. Still, the Council had pinpointed important shortcomings in the context of a development cooperation engagement. The Chair concluded that the Council could recommend the Danish Energy Partnership Programme III (DEPP 3) – Enhanced Engagements in South Africa and Vietnam for approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation, noting shortcomings in relation to socioeconomic analysis, just transition, poverty reduction and gender.

Agenda Item No. 4: Enhanced Engagement under the Indonesia-Denmark Energy Partnership Project (INDODEPP) 2022-25

For discussion and recommendation to the Minister

DKK 15 million

Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate, GDK

Summary:

The Indonesia-Denmark Energy Partnership Project (INDODEPP) was approved in November 2020 with a total budget of DKK 60 million. The enhanced engagement contributes to the strategic objective of INDODEPP, which is: “Indonesia is meeting national energy demand in a more sustainable way; reaching national NDC goals by reducing GHG-emissions; fulfilling SDG7 and SDG13 targets; and achieving the 23% renewable energy goal in 2025”. The project addresses the actual gap between national ambitious targets for a green transition in the energy sector, and a significant under-implementation of these targets in provinces. The project will illustrate to local policy makers how analysis of renewable energy potential and needed supporting measures consolidated in a solid energy planning process can create a cost efficient vision for the green transition at the provincial level. The project may lead to identification of possible pilot and flagship projects of larger scale investments and energy system integration, which local government can pursue in the investment plans for the province.

The Council for Development Policy recommended the Enhanced Engagement under the Indonesia-Denmark Energy Partnership Project (INDODEPP) 2022-25 for approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation while at the same time noting shortcomings in relation to how the project would support local development, increase local resilience to climate change and benefit the local poor and indigenous peoples.

The Council welcomed the engagement by the Indonesia-Denmark Energy Partnership Project (INDODEPP) at the sub-national level, which offered potential for positively affecting the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable people, local ecosystems and resilience as well as risks for negative effects. However, the project document did not sufficiently explain how the project would support local development, increase local resilience to climate change and benefit the local

poor and indigenous peoples. For example, the document mentioned as an undisputable fact that lowering carbon emissions benefitted poor peoples' health but the Council asked for further clarification of how the programme would benefit poorer parts of the population. While refraining from repeating previous comments, Members of the Council referred to the comments provided under Agenda Item No. 3, and noted that they also applied to the INDODEPP project.

Members of the Council called for more information about how the project would ensure that indigenous people's rights and interests were considered in local government's energy planning process. In general, the project document did not sufficiently explain human rights aspects and gender related issues relevant in a local green energy transition. Members of the Council suggested to include local organisations and universities in the project and questioned the choice of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) as partners to work "on the ground". Members of the Council asked for information about how the participating provinces had been identified and stressed the importance of monitoring closely the risk of changes in local government's willingness to participate.

Furthermore, Members of the Council noted that Danish companies in general took great interest in the Indonesian market. Initiatives supporting trade and investments were most relevant and Members of the Council recommended the Embassy to consider establishing an INDODEPP focus group of relevant Danish companies with the purpose of facilitating mutual sharing of knowledge about the regulatory framework in targeted provinces and local project pipelines. Members of the Council also enquired about the scope for INDODEPP to change Indonesia's climate policies in a more progressive direction.

With reference to the discussions under the previous agenda item, the Head of the Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate (GDK) thanked the Council for the recommendations and conceded that going forward the project's indirect contribution to poverty reduction through local sustainable development and job creation would be a clear point of attention.

The Ambassador to Jakarta explained that green and cost effective solutions of green and sustainable energy often were easier to promote in the provinces, as many central government institutions were divided in the pro- and contra camps of green transition, which resulted in a certain level of inertia in the decision making process. By placing the project activities in provinces outside of Java, the project would have a higher impact on the lives of poor people, which were in accordance with the Government of Indonesia's priorities.

The Danish Energy Agency elaborated on the Danish approach to strategic energy planning, explaining the participatory elements of the process, which would ensure that the interests and concerns of civil society would be considered, including the rights of indigenous peoples. IRENA would contribute with international experience and research in the areas of the organisation's expertise, but the local analysis would be provided by local expertise in universities and by relevant local organisations, including the local energy authorities.

The Chair of the Council concluded that the project would enhance the impact of INDODEPP and that the Council could recommend the Enhanced Engagement under the Indonesia-Denmark Energy Partnership Project (INDODEPP) 2022-25 for approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation, while at the same time noting shortcomings in relation to how the

project would support local development, increase local resilience to climate change and benefit the local poor and indigenous peoples.

Agenda Item No. 5: Inception Review of the Climate Change Adaptation and Stability in Fragile Border Areas of Mali (PATRIP Foundation)

For information and discussion

(The Council recommended the grant for approval on 29 October 2020)

Danish Embassy in Bamako

Summary:

The discussion of the Council was based on an Inception Review requested by the Council in October 2020 of the grant to the PATRIP Foundation for the project Climate Change Adaptation and Stability in Fragile Border Areas of Mali. Facing the vicious circle of climate change and conflicts over resources, particularly present along the borders of Mali and Burkina Faso and Mali and Niger, the project implements an integrated community approach focusing on two complementary outcome areas: (1) Local communities have access to climate smart economic and social infrastructure in particular in the agriculture/pastoralism, water, and energy sectors, and (2) Reduced conflicts, increased social dialogue and capacity building for joint community management particularly regarding natural resources and community infrastructure. When the Council approved the grant in 2020, a number of concerns were raised, which the Inception Review addresses.

The Council for Development Policy confirmed the relevance of the Inception Review and expressed appreciation of having a fruitful discussion of the project's risks and opportunities and to also be informed about the project's status. The Council expressed the hope that the Inception Review recommendations would guide the execution of the project.

The Council commended the high quality of the Inception Review. Overall, the Council agreed with the review's recommendations and emphasized the need for such a review. The Council appreciated the possibility to discuss the raised issues from the review. The Council noted that the review confirmed that this was indeed a high risk and complex engagement. However, Members of the Council found that rather than retreating for these reasons, the project should be regarded as a learning opportunity given its climate change focus in such a risky and fragile context. Thus, it was suggested to ensure that sufficient capacity was set aside for learning from the project.

Members of the Council, based on some of the critical points in the review, asked whether the Embassy felt reassured continuing the project, especially given PATRIP's lack of experience in the region. Members of the Council asked if the Danish grant to PATRIP had contributed to improving the Foundation's capacities and ways of working. Members of the Council pointed to the relevance of the project in the context of the Danish development strategy ("The World We Share"), working with both fragility and climate change as a threat multiplier affecting conflict. In that regard, Members of the Council noted the need for project flexibility, e.g. by avoiding heavy bureaucracy, to be able to respond to the unpredictable context and recalled that working in risky and unpredictable contexts was not a new thing for Danish development cooperation – with many years of experience in e.g. Syria and Sudan – which ensured that Denmark had a mature and robust system in place to handle it.

Members of the Council questioned if the climate aspect of the project was strong enough, especially considering that the climate objective had not been sufficiently highlighted in PATRIP's call for proposals. Looking ahead, Members of the Council emphasized that climate conflicts would increase, and that a climate perspective was necessary for this project.

Members of the Council noticed the review's focus on adapting to local contexts applying a problem solving approach fit for the individual conditions. Given the inaccessibility in many areas, Members of the Council questioned the ability of PATRIP to ensure adequate project monitoring and highlighted the need to rely on local partners. Members of the Council asked about the reasons for executing the project over a relatively brief period given the significant obstacles, and it was suggested to ask for community contributions to infrastructure investments to ensure local ownership. Finally, Members of the Council asked about the cross-border approach of the project and how it was implemented in practice.

The Ambassador assured that the Embassy felt confident working with PATRIP despite its lack of experience in the region. PATRIP was a new partner for Denmark operating in a difficult context. The Foundation was present through local partners and due to COVID-19, it had been challenging for PATRIP's own staff to do missions. However, PATRIP was planning visits in the near future.

Since the finalisation of the Inception Review, the Embassy and PATRIP had developed an action plan addressing each of the review's 11 recommendations. The Ambassador emphasised that this was a process, and that step by step it was already going in the right direction. For instance, the Ambassador explained how PATRIP was already now better at including conflict analyses working with partners. Conflict analyses were paramount in such a context and the responsibility of each partner with PATRIP as an important support. The Ambassador agreed with the observation that it was far from the first or last time that Denmark was engaged in a fragile context, which demanded a high degree of adaptability. In that regard, the Ambassador exemplified how the degree of conflict was not the same everywhere. Conflict analyses could reveal when we could be where and working with local partners ensured information to do the right adjustments.

Climate change was becoming increasingly important in the context of conflict. In addition, a high population growth complicated the access to natural resources further fuelling conflict. The Ambassador confirmed that the Council's comments on applying a climate perspective and on explaining the cross-broader approach would be discussed with PATRIP in the follow up process.

Regarding the climate aspect, it was clear that the Danish contribution had impacted the partners. For instance, PATRIP was now including climate aspects in its reporting and requiring partners to do the same. The co-financer, Germany, had also increased the focus on the climate perspectives, and the coming call for proposals, only financed by Germany, would include clear climate aspects.

The Chair of the Council concluded by thanking for the well-written Inception Review and for the opportunity to discuss and comment.

Agenda Item No. 6: The Rules of Procedure on Potential Conflict of Interests

For information and discussion

The Council welcomed and discussed a note from the Legal Department of the MFA on how to handle issues relating to potential conflict of interest and ensuring quorum in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure. The note had been requested following an exchange in the Council on the issue on 30 September 2021. The Council noted that it had previously taken a stricter approach to potential conflicts of interest than the note deemed necessary. The Council asked for further clarifications from the Legal Department on a couple of issues. The Secretariat would follow up. Positions taken by the Council with regard to conflict of interest would continue to be reflected in the minutes of meetings.

Agenda Item No. 7: Any Other Business

No issues were raised under this agenda item.