

This is a translation. Only the Danish text has legal validity.

The International Development Cooperation Act

BE IT KNOWN that the Folketing has enacted and We Margrethe the Second, by the Grace of God, Queen of Denmark, have given Our Royal Assent to the following Act:

Objective

1(1). The objective of Denmark's development cooperation is to fight poverty and promote human rights, democracy, sustainable development, peace and stability in accordance with the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations' human rights conventions.

(2). Danish development cooperation shall contribute to promoting Denmark's interests in a more peaceful, stable and equal world. Consequently, development policy is a central and integral element of Danish foreign policy, which recognises that developing countries are not only affected by development policies but also by other policy areas.

(3). The objective stated in Subsection (1) above shall be pursued through partnerships with developing countries and within the framework of internationally recognised principles and objectives for development cooperation and principles of humanitarian aid.

General provisions

2. It is the responsibility of the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation to coordinate Denmark's participation in international negotiations relating to development policy issues and to administer the Danish State's bilateral and multilateral development cooperation.

3. With a view to fulfilling the objective of this Act as stated in Section 1 above, the Minister for Development Cooperation may grant technical and financial support to partners in developing countries, including through relevant development actors such as multilateral institutions, international organisations, multilateral development banks, global funds, international financial institutions, popular organisations and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

4(1). It is the responsibility of the Minister for Development Cooperation to ensure openness in the administration of the development assistance.

(2). The Minister for Development Cooperation shall lay down detailed rules in this regard.

5. Once a year, the Minister for Development Cooperation shall present a four-year plan to the Folketing (Danish Parliament) covering expenditure on bilateral as well as multilateral development activities for the following financial year and the subsequent years covered by the budget estimations of the finance bill.

Information

6. With a view to spreading knowledge about and achieving understanding of the challenges faced by developing countries and the importance of Danish participation in international development cooperation, the Minister for Development Cooperation may initiate or provide grants for activities with this objective.

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Research

7. With a view to strengthening research capacity in the developing countries and creating new knowledge to address development challenges, the Minister for Development Cooperation may provide grants for research.

Cultural cooperation

8. With a view to promoting cultural diversity and strengthening intercultural understanding, the Minister for Development Cooperation may initiate or provide grants for cultural cooperation with developing countries.

The Investment Fund for Developing Countries

9(1). With the aim of promoting business development in developing countries, the Investment Fund for Developing Countries may promote investments in these countries in cooperation with Danish trade and industry. The fund is an independent institution.

(2). The Government may subsidise the fund's activities. The fund may provide support for Danish investments in developing countries.

(3). The fund shall be governed by a board of directors whose members shall be appointed for three years at a time by the Minister for Development Cooperation, who shall also appoint the chairman and deputy chairman from among the members of the fund. Furthermore, an observer from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall be appointed. The day-to-day business of the fund shall be managed by a managing director, who shall also be appointed by the Minister for Development Cooperation. The fund shall cover its administrative expenses out of its own funds.

(4). The detailed guidelines for the activities of the fund shall be set out in statutes, which shall be approved by the Minister for Development Cooperation.

Organisation

10(1). A Council for Development Policy shall be established.

(2). The Council for Development Policy shall provide the framework for an ongoing strategic dialogue with and advice to the Minister for Development Cooperation in connection with the completion of the tasks for which the Minister for Development Cooperation is responsible in pursuance of this Act.

(3). The Minister for Development Cooperation shall appoint the members of the Council for Development Policy.

(4). The Council for Development Policy shall have up to 15 members appointed for a period of three years at a time, reappointment for one additional three-year period being possible.

(5). The Minister for Development Cooperation shall appoint one chairman from among the members of the Council for Development Policy.

(6). The Minister for Development Cooperation shall lay down the rules of procedure for the council mentioned in Subsection (1) above.

Commencement

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11(1). This Act shall come into force on 1 January 2013.

(2). The Danish International Development Cooperation Act, cf. Consolidated Act No. 541 of 10 July 1998 shall be repealed when this Act comes into force.

(3). Guarantees issued in pursuance of Section 8 of the Danish International Development Cooperation Act, cf. Consolidated Act No. 541 of 10 July 1998 as amended by Act No. 85 of 14 February 2006 shall continue to be governed by that provision even after this Act has come into force.

(4). The Industrialization Fund for Developing Countries that was established in pursuance of Section 9 of the Danish International Development Cooperation Act, cf. Consolidated Act No. 541 of 10 July 1998 as amended by Act No. 85 of 14 February 2006 shall continue to exist and when this Act comes into force its name shall be changed to the Investment Fund for Developing Countries and shall subsequently be governed by Section 9 of this Act.

Given at Christiansborg Palace, on 18 June 2012

Under Our Royal Hand and Seal

MARGRETHE R.

/ Christian Friis Bach