

Annex H – Evolution in Danish Development Cooperation Strategies 2009–2021

Development cooperation strategies are developed by the MFA, debated in the Council for Development Cooperation, published for public hearings, and presented by the minister responsible for development cooperation¹, the Parliament in the Foreign Affairs Committee. The strategies reflect Parliamentary approval by a majority. It is worth noting that the management of Danish development cooperation was supported by a range of sub-strategies, guidelines, and tools.²

Strategy, year Political parties in government	Thematic priorities/aid effectiveness	Context – referring to the context in the strategies	Significant shifts: - new modalities - partners
Freedom from poverty – freedom to change 2009 Liberal Government	Fight against poverty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy and human rights, governance • Growth and employment; markets and technology, domestic resource mobilisation • Gender equality • Stability and security, state building • Environment and climate Aid effectiveness: Robust, flexible, and action-oriented partnerships based on mutual accountability.	Aftermath of the financial crisis. Increasing diversity among developing countries; Asian boom and transition of partnerships, e.g., Vietnam. At the same time (increased) fragility in Africa (e.g., Horn of Africa, South Sudan) and South Asia: Afghanistan, Pakistan. Climate and the planetary crises coming to the forefront in development aid.	Fewer countries with larger programmes, diversity in partnerships with countries. Partner countries: Willingness to change: Governments, civil society; Denmark: Whole of Government, civil society and private sector International partners: strengthened to address global challenges and promote globalisation. Engagements in growth countries: Partnerships with Danish companies, integrating trade and development. Engagement in fragile states: Integrate diplomacy, development, security, and foreign policy interests.
The Right to a Better Life 2012 Coalition government led by the	Strategic priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights and democracy, human rights-based approach • Green growth (jobs and low carbon) • Social progress 	Globalisation pulling people out of poverty primarily in growth economies in Asia and also increasingly in Africa. Focus on green growth, recognising that the developing countries still	Development cooperation is an investment in growth to mutual benefit, in peace, fewer refugees, combatting terror, etc. The human rights-based approach: Stronger focus on civil society advocacy role and

¹ The title has shifted over the period to include also trade and climate policy. At present, the Minister of Foreign Affairs is also responsible for development cooperation.

² <https://www.ft.dk/samling/20111/almdel/uru/spm/195/svar/910209/1164124.pdf>

<p>Social Democrats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stability and protection, incl. migration <p>Gender and climate to be integrated as priorities and pillars for ODA.</p> <p>Combat poverty and promote human rights (HR) through partnerships with developing countries.</p> <p>Advance Danish interests in a more stable equal world. Paris aid effectiveness principles promoted as is budget support based on contracts.</p> <p>Influence multilateral organisations.</p> <p>Aid effectiveness principles: -ownership, harmonisation, alignment, results, and mutual accountability -transparency and zero-tolerance.</p>	<p>need to grow to fight poverty, and not all countries contributed equally to climate change.</p> <p>At the same time increased emphasis on democracy and human rights as prerequisites for development.</p>	<p>promotion of rights and governance.</p> <p>Greater emphasis on economic growth and redistribution. Development cooperation must help catalyse private investments.</p> <p>More budget support based on contracts with partners.</p> <p>Partners: Partner countries, multilaterals, the EU, Denmark, civil society, and private sector.</p> <p>Increased focus on Neighbourhood and MENA, regional programme.</p>
<p>The World 2030</p> <p>Coalition government led by the Liberal Party</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From fragility to peace and stability, humanitarian development cooperation, integrated approaches • Migration • Migration response, readmission as a principle, root causes of migration • Inclusive sustainable growth • Climate and renewables 	<p>The strategy answered the joint global responsibility laid out in the SDGs and stressed the global interconnectedness and Danish responsibilities and interests as a foundation of development cooperation.</p> <p>International trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee crisis 2015-2016 	<p>Leaving no one behind, humanitarian development response.</p> <p>Categories of partner countries with different needs and hence different offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor fragile: Priority • poor stable: But pulled in many directions, so tailored to needs <p>Transition and growth, incl. the need to address the downsides to globalisation (environment, labour rights).</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework conditions for growth; domestic resource mobilisation • Responsible investments • Human rights and democracy • Gender equality and civil society <p>Aid effectiveness: Enhanced risk willingness and realism.</p> <p>Focus on results: Ambitious and realistic objectives, context-driven, strategic patience. Interventions not effective, change course.</p> <p>No new budget support: Maybe continue through EU state building contracts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing radicalisation in Africa • Global climate crisis <p>Growing diversity of developing countries – also in Africa.</p> <p>Increase in number of people fleeing and protracted humanitarian crisis, incl. in MENA/Africa.</p>	<p>Encouraging public–private partnerships, in particular in transition economies.</p> <p>Partnering for Denmark: With other ministries and a focus on framework conditions in areas of future interest to Danish companies.</p> <p>Danish actors: Private sector, civil society, and other authorities.</p> <p>EU and multilateral cooperation. Influencing multilaterals.</p>
<p>The World we Share 2021</p> <p>Social democratic government</p>	<p>Based on a foundation of human rights and democracy focus on:</p> <p>Help people where the need is largest: Fight poverty by tackling root causes, inequality, conflict displacement, and migration.</p> <p>Create sustainable alternatives to migration, prevent humanitarian crises, and be a strong partner when crises come. Deliver safety and security through peace building.</p> <p>Fight climate change and restore balance to the planet.</p> <p>Support climate change adaptation, nature, and the environment.</p>	<p>We take care of Denmark when we take care of the world.</p> <p>Global upheaval: COVID-19, climate, migration, and displacement.</p> <p>Increasing conflicts and fragility, incl. in Danish extended partnership countries. Poverty on the rise.</p> <p>Democracy and HR increasingly under attack, challenging the values which DK believe in.</p> <p>Increasing numbers of refugees, incl. in protracted crises.</p>	<p>More emphasis on civil society and the role of civil society in change, also referring to a human-centred approach where the most vulnerable are also protected.</p> <p>Fewer partner countries selected along migration routes.</p> <p>Extended partnership countries, many of which are fragile.</p> <p>Targeted partner countries.</p> <p>Partnerships are essential for solving the challenges: All of Denmark must engage.</p> <p>Partners in the order presented: Civil society in DK and elsewhere, the UN, the EU,</p>

	<p>Leadership in reductions and green growth/clean energy. Mobilise finance, socially just economic recovery.</p> <p>No reference to aid effectiveness, apart from 'local ownership and involvement of vulnerable people'.</p>	<p>The prospects for global cooperation to solve crises goes through multilateralism.</p>	<p>Nordic countries, strategic sector cooperation, private sector, development banks, universities, and research.</p>
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