

WHAT WILL DENMARK LOOK LIKE IN 2030?

CIVIL SOCIETY REVIEWS DENMARK'S
EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

83 CONCRETE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO DENMARK



Horns Rev II, of the coast of Denmark.

Foto: The Danish Wind Industry Association



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foto: Brian Berg

PREFACE

“The future comes by itself,
progress does not.”

Poul Henningsen

Agenda2030 is an agenda for transformation - deep transformation. Its success therefore depends on transformative actions, not business as usual. Thus, governments, the private sector and civil society must ask ourselves what fundamental changes, innovations and collaboration we will bring about now to achieve the goals. In challenging ourselves, we will develop innovations that will spur collaboration and progress towards solving the world's most pressing problems. Indeed, Denmark is in a favourable position today because generations of politicians and civil society leaders have dared to set ambitious goals.

You are about to read a broad section of Danish civil society's views on Denmark's efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The goal-by-goal review includes 83 specific recommendations that can help Denmark chart a course for continuing its progress.

Our report challenges the widespread belief that Denmark, by and large, already has achieved the Sustainable Development Goals at home and that Denmark's main contribution is to export sustainable solutions to help others implement them. There is little doubt that Denmark is in a good starting position in comparison to other countries, based on decades of policy choices and investments in promoting social development, equitable growth

and sustainability. However, as this report shows, Denmark can and should do far more now to build on its success in a number of areas to embrace the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To name a few areas, we have to produce and consume more sustainably because it is clear that if all the countries in the world had the levels of consumption that Danes do, we would be hurtling even faster towards catastrophic climate change. On reducing inequality, where Denmark has traditionally set an example to the world, the trend is actually moving in the wrong direction. Moreover, the structure of Denmark's taxes and duties are still far from promoting Agenda2030.

Organisations and individuals with years of experience working with different aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals have prepared the following reviews of the Danish efforts at home and abroad. While the report does not try to be comprehensive in terms of covering all goals or painting a complete picture of Denmark's progress, it presents a series of specific policy recommendations.

This report is a collaborative effort and all views expressed can only be attributed to the respective organisations behind the individual contributions. What unites us is the conviction that a strong and critical civil society voice, which constructively challenges power holders and holds them to account, is vital to meet the 2030 Agenda. Such efforts are no less important in Denmark than in any other country in the world.

By
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**MELLEMFOLKELIGT
SAMVIRKE** 



POVERTY RISING IN DENMARK

A recent estimate of the extent of poverty shows an increase in persistent poverty in Denmark from less than 20,000 persons in 2002 to nearly 45,000 persons in 2015.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goal no. 1 is: Fight poverty. With the adoption of the UN goal, Denmark is committed to "implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable". Furthermore, the government has promised to implement a national measurement of poverty to help ensure that poverty in all its forms is eradicated by 2030.

The prognosis for Denmark is good. Being a rich country with good social security and one of the most egalitarian societies in the world, it should be easy for Denmark to reach the goal. The government, however, does not recognise the importance of measuring poverty and will not honour the commitment to developing a national indicator of poverty. The government rejects the need for a policy to combat poverty in Denmark.

Furthermore, economic and social development in Denmark is drifting towards an unequal distribution of income, partially due to market factors but also to policy reforms. Over the past few years there have been a number of extensive reforms of Danish state benefits.

The latest reform sets a "ceiling" for the total amount of social assistance that an individual can receive in state support. The goal of the reforms is to make it more attractive to take a job. However, the reforms leave many people marginalised. Many of those who experience severe cuts in social assistance due to the reforms are deemed incapable of taking a job, due to illness or social problems.

A recent estimate of the extent of poverty shows an increase in persistent poverty in Denmark from less than 20,000 persons in 2002 to nearly 45,000 persons in 2015. The poverty line is calculated using a method similar to the OECD approach.

By not setting a poverty line, the Danish government lacks an important tool with which to monitor the UN goals. Moreover, latest social benefit rates are so low that they do not meet the Danish standard for a minimum income. Many are left poor. This is a clear disregard of the obligation Denmark has taken on by adopting the UN goal.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Establish a recognised poverty line to monitor development in society and against which new laws can be evaluated
- Make a national action plan for combatting poverty
- Ensure that social benefit rates always meet the Danish standard for a minimum income

By
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RÅDET FOR
SOCIALT
UDSATTE

DENMARK SHOULD CONTINUE TO LEAD IN FIGHTING POVERTY

Fighting poverty has been the focus of Danish ODA since its initiation more than 50 years ago. In development assistance today, this objective is still presented up front: 'The objective of Denmark's development cooperation is to fight poverty' – even after recent amendments and severe cuts in ODA. Since 1978, Denmark has complied with the UN resolution to contribute at least 0.7 % of GNI in ODA. The present government has, however, decided to change the UN guideline from a minimum to a maximum. Accordingly, Danish ODA has in recent years been confronted with new cuts and with an official rate of GNI 0.75 % for 2016, Denmark tabulates the lowest contribution since 1983.

Furthermore, in response to the large influx of refugees and migrants, Denmark has reserved major parts of its ODA for covering expenses incurred by asylum seekers and even for integration of refugees, a practice that has recently been criticised by the Danish National Audit Department. In addition to cuts, this procedure has meant a severe decrease in the contribution of Danish ODA to fight poverty. In keeping with Danish political tradition, multilateral assistance through the UN and other international organisations has had high priority, aiming at a 50/50 distribution between bi- and multilateral assistance in the 1990s. Multilateral assistance is seen to benefit by being untied, economising on resources and having lower transaction costs, broader expert foundation and greater legitimacy when dealing with trans-frontier problems.

Since 2000, however, the percentage of Danish ODA allocated for multilateral assistance has decreased year by year. In 2015, it was down to 21 % of total ODA and, excluding EU assistance, the

Since 1978, Denmark has complied with the UN resolution to contribute at least 0.7 % of GNI in ODA. The present government has, however, decided to change the UN guideline from a minimum to a maximum.

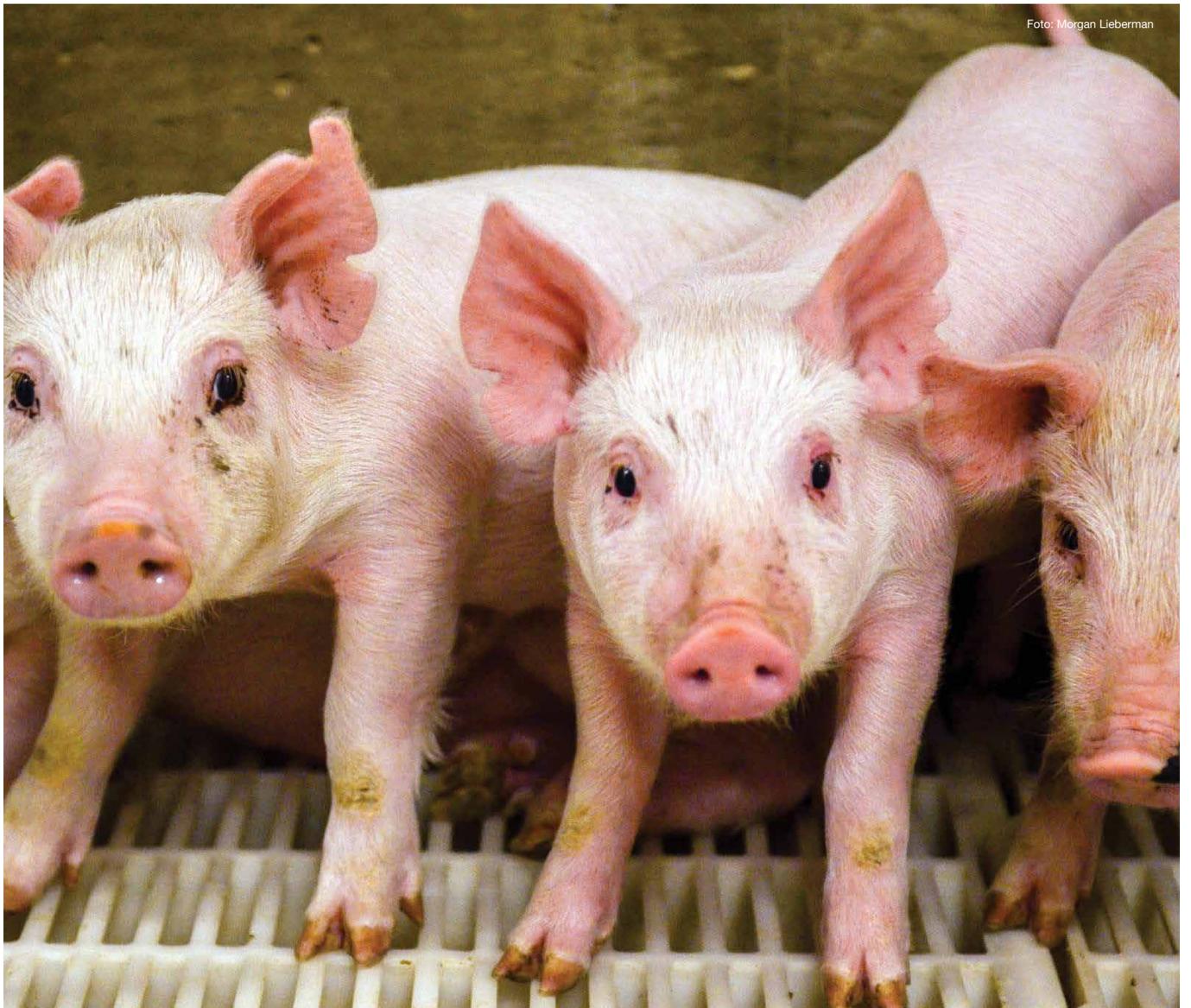
percentage allocated for the UN and other international organisations was only about 11 %. This is a serious problem, considering that the UN is supposed to lead implementation of the SDG's and the 2030-agenda for sustainable development.

These developments will inevitably weaken the Danish contribution to fighting extreme poverty.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Establish an action plan, mapping the road for Danida to fulfil its contribution to reaching the goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030, including annual progress reporting, while Denmark increases its ODA in order to retain its international lead in the fight against extreme poverty
- Increase the share of multilateral assistance in total ODA in order to maximise Danish support for the UN to lead in implementing the global goals
- Compel business involved in implementing Danish ODA to abide by the demands of poverty alleviation, in particular the elimination of extreme poverty by 2030

By
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DENMARK - A CHAMPION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS - OVERLOOKS IMPORTANCE OF COLLECTIVE LAND AND FOOD RIGHTS

In international law, the right to adequate food and the fundamental right to freedom from hunger apply to everyone without discrimination¹.

While 5 % of the global population are indigenous, they constitute 15 % of the world's extreme poor. Levels of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples are often disproportionately higher than among the non-indigenous population, largely caused by the expropriation of their lands. The UN has expressed serious concern that indigenous peoples' and especially indigenous women's, right to food is frequently denied or violated, often as a result of systematic discrimination or the widespread lack of applicability of indigenous peoples' rights, particularly their right to land, territories and natural resources².

Denmark has a long tradition for promoting indigenous peoples' rights globally and has played a pivotal role in securing indigenous peoples' collective rights to land through bilateral aid and NGO support. In the new Danish Strategy for Development Cooperation, Denmark reiterates its support for indigenous peoples' rights internationally. It also recognises the importance of land rights for the livelihood and food production of the poor, and commits to protecting land and property rights as part of the necessary framework conditions for sustainable growth. Indigenous peoples are however not a specific priority for the strategy at the bilateral level, nor is there any reference to a continued support to promote collective land rights. Moreover, indigenous peoples' collective rights continue to be violated in relation to investments in mega projects and large-scale agriculture as, for instance, in relation to the Lake Turkana Wind Mill Project in Kenya³.

In the national action plan for agenda 2030, to reach goal 2, Denmark focuses on the development of sustainable agricultural production, but fails to recognise the role of small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples and traditional food systems in eradicating hunger and securing biological diversity.

Indigenous peoples' collective rights continue to be violated in relation to investments in mega projects and large-scale agriculture as, for instance, in relation to the Lake Turkana Wind Mill Project in Kenya.

In ensuring that the implementation of Goal 2 does not leave indigenous peoples behind, it is crucial to highlight the connection between the right to food and land rights for indigenous peoples, and require states and private sector to respect and protect the collective land rights and traditional food systems of indigenous peoples.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Work for a Political Declaration to be adopted by the HLPF 2017, which recognises the need to secure tenure rights for all women and men and affirms that tenure rights for women and girls, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers are fundamental to end hunger
- Promote the adoption of a land rights indicator for measuring progress on target 2.3
- Require the inclusion of indigenous peoples' rights in due diligence procedures for Danish investments in agriculture and mega projects abroad

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¹ Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) of 1966

² e.g. A/HRC/30/41, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on the rights of indigenous women and girls.

³ <https://www.danwatch.dk/undersogelse/a-people-in-the-way-of-progress/>

SDG3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



DENMARK NEEDS TO RAISE ITS NATIONAL HEALTH AMBITIONS

In its Action Plan for implementing the SDGs, the Danish government concludes that Denmark has achieved the goal of ensuring health and well-being for all.

Denmark had already achieved some of the targets under SDG3 when they were adopted, including 3.1 and 3.2 on maternal and child health since Denmark's health system far outweighs the ambitions in these targets. However, other targets are very ambitious in a Danish health context, including 3.4 with a 30% reduction of deaths from non-communicable diseases, and Denmark has, in recent years, fallen below neighbouring countries in several health indicators.

Three of the nine targets of the health goal are included in the Danish Action Plan on the domestic implementation of the SDGs: non-communicable diseases (3.4), health system strengthening (3.8) and health and environment (3.9). These targets represent a comprehensive and integrated approach to health, which includes a focus on the social determinants of health, which in a Danish context, still requires substantial attention in order to ensure improvement both in preventive and curative measures. It is also clear that inequality in health exists in Denmark as certain population groups are more vulnerable and access health care to a lesser degree than the average population groups.

The Danish Health and Development Network has consulted with a broad variety of Danish stakeholders within the health sector, i.e. representatives from the private sector, research community, interest groups, National Board of Health, UN system, politicians and development organisations on how to achieve SDG3 in Denmark, and how Denmark can

It is also clear that inequality in health exists in Denmark as certain population groups are more vulnerable and access health care to a lesser degree than the average population groups.

contribute to achieving the goal globally. Among the unresolved health issues that came up were mental health, prevention efforts, especially with regard to tobacco, maternal health and vaccination programs.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Set a higher level of ambition for itself by drawing up an action plan that meets the actual health needs in Denmark. The principle of 'leaving no one behind' should lead to a focus on how to minimise inequality in health and how to reach those furthest behind.
- Upgrade its efforts and funding for preventive measures including those concerning tobacco and alcohol consumption, which is absolutely essential to reach the target of reducing non-communicable diseases.
- Develop a comprehensive, integrated, life-long, national sexual and reproductive health and rights policy. This should include obligatory comprehensive sexuality education for secondary schools as well as comprehensive prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV prevention with national approval of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).

By
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DONT THROW AWAY GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ACHIEVING GLOBAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL

Denmark has recently made substantial cuts in the overall Danish ODA and reduced its support to bilateral health initiatives.

Globally, Denmark holds a unique position in its contribution to achieving global health and well-being for all. Denmark has many years of political and programmatic experience with global health initiatives as part of the Danish official development aid (ODA), and excels in having actors from various sectors who deliver excellent global health and novel solutions to disease prevention. Furthermore, Denmark upholds a human rights and evidence-based approach in its development cooperation strategy. This gives Denmark a key role in delivering on the SDG principle of leaving no one behind and good health and well-being for all.

Denmark has recently made substantial cuts in the overall Danish ODA and reduced its support to bilateral health initiatives. This risks undermining Denmark's role in global health. In Denmark's Action Plan for Implementation of the SDGs at a global level, Denmark has included sexual and reproductive health and rights as a political priority and via the 'She Decides Initiative'. In reaction to the reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule in USAID funding policies, Denmark pledged to step up financial commitment to this particular field of health. Nonetheless, sexual and reproductive health and rights have also been subjected to financial cuts in the past years.

Denmark needs to think smartly and holistically about this and use the potential in the interdependency in the SDGs as well as the potential of all Danish actors through partnerships. Studies illustrate how investing in global health pays off as healthy people are far more capable of completing an education, maintaining work, demanding human rights, innovating and contributing to societal and economic growth.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Increase ODA and investments in global health, including support to existing and novel health technologies, engagement in the fight against non-communicable diseases spearheaded by the UN and engagement in partnerships with Danish health actors from across sectors.
- Commit to extending global health services to all. Factors like inequality, sexuality, gender, physical and mental health and age continue to differentiate in people's possibilities for access to vital health services. Denmark must work against stigmatisation, discrimination and suppressive legislation that create barriers for health.
- Continue to take global leadership in advancing the sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda. Denmark must push for increased investments in HIV initiatives as UNAIDS estimates that if annual investments are not upped from 22 billion USD to 30 billion USD over the next few years, we will not achieve the goal of eliminating AIDS altogether by 2030.

By
The Danish AIDS Foundation and the Danish Family Planning Association on behalf of the Danish Health and Development Network

 AIDS
FONDET

 DFPA
The Danish Family
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 Health and Development

SDG4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



DENMARK NEEDS TO GUARANTEE LIFELONG FREE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

Denmark's public education system has long strengthened cohesion in society and effectively contributed to the equality and equity of Danish society. Unfortunately, this is now under threat.

Everyone has a right to lifelong learning and free quality education. The severe cuts to further education in recent years, combined with specific changes in legislation, such as the decision to limit the possibility for students to change majors and be accepted for a second education ('Uddannelsesloftet') and the fees required to take supplementary courses needed to get accepted into some degree courses, has put the Danish achievement of SDG 4 into jeopardy.

In order to ensure equal access to all levels of education, more data on the access for various groups to education is necessary to identify and combat the types of inequalities that still exist in the Danish education system. This has to be combined with the rights that should befall all students in Denmark, such as free quality education and financial support (SU). The latter is a prerequisite to removing economic barriers to education.

Denmark promised years ago, as part of the Bologna Process in 2012, and reaffirmed this promise in 2015, to compile the necessary data (National Access Plans) to ensure that students increasingly reflect the composition of the population at large. However, the Danish government has yet to act on these promises.

Fulfil the promises set out in the Bologna Process and compile accurate, disaggregated statistics on education in Denmark.

Worryingly, the SDGs are relatively unknown in Danish society at large and we believe that the education system has a role to play both in informing students about the goals, but also in helping Denmark to achieve them. The education system can help create global citizens who take responsibility for the achievement of the SDGs.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Ensure equitable and free quality education in Denmark and refrain from cutting financial investment in education, both support to institutions and financial support to students
- Fulfil the promises set out in the Bologna Process and compile accurate, disaggregated statistics on education in Denmark
- Create an SDG policy for all schools, both elementary and secondary education, which both helps the school participate in Denmark's achievement of the SDGs and includes teaching the SDGs in various lessons

By
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VÆRK



SCALE-UP AID TO QUALITY EDUCATION SPENT ON FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR ALL

Denmark's strategy for Development and Humanitarian Action: 'World 2030' (2017) highlights education as an important dimension of gender equality and peace and a precondition for economic freedom and sustainable growth. Denmark's support to SDG4 is mainly channelled through multilateral initiatives and civil society cooperation with a priority on fragile and conflict-stricken countries. In 2013, Denmark's contribution to the Global Partnership on Education (GPE) dropped from DKK 400,000 to 290,000 and has since been around DKK 250,000 annually. Denmark also contributed to the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Fund with DKK 75,000,000 in 2016 and supports education projects in Afghanistan and Pakistan, supervised by UNICEF.

During recent years, developing countries have increased their domestic funding to education. However, low and lower income countries cannot cover the cost of providing quality education for all without external aid. Aid needs to increase at least sixfold to fill the US\$39 billion annual gap to reach the new targets (GEM 2016), but aid to education has fallen as a donor priority for the sixth year in a row and aid is today lower than it was in 2009. For many low-income countries, the SDG4 goals for primary and secondary education are unlikely to be reached until the end of the 21st century without a considerable increase in both domestic and international financing. Moreover, for every 100 of the richest youth in low-income countries who complete primary education, only 36 do so among the poorest; in lower and upper secondary education, the corresponding figures are 19 and 7. The trend of corporate takeover of public services is likely to increase inequality. Unacceptable large numbers of youth - 263 million children in 2014 - are out of

Low and lower income countries cannot cover the cost of providing quality education for all without external aid.

school. Poor girls and those who are caught in the tumult of conflicts and humanitarian crises are over-represented in this group. Around 50% of primary school-age refugees and 75% of secondary school-age refugees are out of school worldwide.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Increase its financial contribution to GPE and makes additional contributions for education to the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) fund up to 2020 and actively address the negative follow up impacts of the commercialisation of education, which could undermine human rights in line with UN resolution A/HRC/35/L.2 on the Right to Education adopted on 22 June 2017.
- Focus its aid on reducing educational inequalities and strengthening public education
- Be proactive in international debates and efforts to promote global reform to tax systems, including through a new inter-governmental body on tax, to help finance SDG4/ all the SDGs and support developing countries in their effort to mobilise and spend domestic resources equitably

By
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CRIMINALISE COERCIVE CONTROL IN DENMARK!

Denmark is committed to protecting women exposed to domestic violence and to ensuring a criminalisation of coercive control. However, Denmark violates this commitment, which is enshrined in both the Istanbul Convention and in Danish legal practice. The worst side effect of intimate violence – apart from murder! – is the risk of never getting back on one's feet again: the risk of becoming an alcoholic, the risk of depression and angst, the risk of giving birth to an underweight child, and the risk of never being able to work again. These are known risk-factors to survivors of domestic violence. Women are most likely to be abused and they often describe coercive control as the most difficult to recover from. Target 5 of SDG5 is to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. Coercive control, also known as intimate terrorism, is the most common form of violence, and females are the most common victims; this form of violence is therefore the most crucial to defeat.

Coercive control involves repeated threats of violence, isolation, or having your judgment or actions suppressed and over time you lose your self-esteem. More than half a million Danes live or have lived in a relationship with coercive control. This is a threat to public health in Denmark and to tens of thousands women's right to a healthy life with equal opportunities.

To meet the SDGs Denmark needs to put an end to coercive control. An individual criminalisation of coercive control in Danish criminal code, would not only help more abused women to break out from a violent relationship and stop the abuser, it would also breed a culture of not accepting coercive control.

Three current legal paragraphs in the Danish criminal code could be used to prosecute the perpetrator of repeated controlling behavior. However, a new law study from University of Copenhagen shows that these have never been applied in Court.

We must leave no-one behind: Every woman exposed to coercive control in Denmark, no matter what her residency status, should receive respectful protection until her situation is stabilised and settled.

A particularly vulnerable group is women with ethnic minority background whose residency in Denmark relies on a violent husband. Surprisingly, the Danish Immigration Service does not take domestic abuse into consideration when assessing her and her children's right to stay in Denmark.

We must leave no-one behind: Every woman exposed to coercive control in Denmark, no matter what her residency status, should receive respectful protection until her situation is stabilised and settled. This is also in line with the Istanbul Convention.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Follow the example of England and Scotland by criminalising repeated coercive control.
- Give abused women with fragile residency equal access to justice, thus leaving no-one behind
- Recognise that coercive control amongst others is a gender equality challenge, and that means of prevention should be addressed as such.

By
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READ MORE

The Istanbul Convention, 2011
www.danner.dk

GENDER EQUALITY AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS AT THE CENTER OF DANISH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Denmark continues to be a champion in terms of delivering on gender equality.

Gender equality has been a priority and mainstreamed into Danish development cooperation for decades and the recently adopted Danish Strategy for Development Cooperation - with almost full consensus in parliament - makes gender equality, human rights of women, girls and LGBT people as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights key Danish priorities in the years to come. Denmark continues to be a champion in terms of delivering on gender equality.

This priority is rooted in the history of the Danish welfare state and in the recognition that full and equal participation of all in society is crucial to the achievement of sustainable development. Denmark is indeed a 'pioneer country in relation to gender equality' as the Action Plan for implementing the SDGs concludes. This is illustrated by the introduction of the birth control pill in 1966, mandatory sex education in primary schools in 1971 and free abortion in 1973.

Denmark has recently stepped up its global policy commitments to these areas and has announced that gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights will be given further budgetary

allocations in the years to come. This is very positive, and also absolutely necessary, as these areas of work have seen a downward spiral of declining Danish funding in recent years combined with the fact that global opposition to women's rights, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights is growing and well-organised. This has to be countered by progressive countries, such as Denmark, if we are to realise the targets set forward in SDG 5.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Continue to increase funding for realising the SDG 5 targets for gender equality, especially the targets related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, which is one of Denmark's key competencies and values.
- Direct increased funding directly to organisations, countries and agencies who work to realise gender equality in various contexts, as well as indirectly through convening and acting as a catalyst for new and additional funding sources.
- Continue to be a progressive force in global policy processes and arenas, where the fight for gender equality of women and girls as well as LGBT people will be further challenged in the coming years.

By
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SDG6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



A JOINT EFFORT – TO MEET THE WATER GOAL IN DENMARK CONTRIBUTES TO SOLVING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

In Denmark, everyone has access to clean, healthy and affordable water and sanitation. Water supply and sanitation are managed by utilities who play an important role in achieving SDG6 and all water related goals.

Water supply in Denmark is based entirely on groundwater with a minimum of treatment. Securing the water resource for future generations is crucial and protection is based on mapping monitoring and regulation of pesticides and nutrients. To secure an unpolluted resource, a high level of protection must be maintained in respect of both pesticides, nutrients and emerging pollutants.

Almost all wastewater in Denmark is treated biologically at our more than 1,000 wastewater treatment plants. Today several wastewater treatment plants are undergoing a transition to become “Water resource recovery facilities” reusing resources and producing energy.

The Danish National SDG Action Plan includes indicators for implementation, which for Goal 6 is the EU Water Framework Directive. Denmark can however go beyond just implementing the EU Water Framework Directive and should be more ambitious in fulfilling the SDG’s. The water sector has a huge potential to contribute and there is a growth potential for the sector in sharing Danish water knowledge and technology globally, whilst improving the environment globally. The Danish water sector is engaged all over the world today and wishes to contribute to global partnerships.

Denmark can however go beyond just implementing the EU Water Framework Directive and should be more ambitious in fulfilling the SDG’s.

The SDG’s must be integrated in daily activities for cities, companies, civil society and water utilities. DANVA wish to join the effort to improve implementation of the SDG’s for the benefit of sustainable development in Denmark and worldwide.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Take a more ambitious approach to protecting and securing the groundwater resource through protection zones and afforestation. This is crucial in order to ensure clean water for all as directly reflected in SDG goal 6.
- Develop incentives and a framework for innovation and technology development to secure water efficiency and sustainable cities in the future. Inclusion of water in the circular economy is an approach to working across the targets for a wiser resource strategy and to providing clean energy for all.
- Promote an enabling environment for the water sector to contribute to the partnerships for sustainable growth that the government has as an objective. We need innovative cross-sectoral partnerships in the Danish water sector to provide world-class solutions by 2030 and to share our knowledge globally now.

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Wastewater Association
(DANVA)





Chiipe, 12 years old, lives in part of Zimbabwe which has been ravaged by drought.

Foto: Samantha Rainders/Actionaid

NSK FISKERI POLITIK

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VI ELSKER
STOP KRIG



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



DENMARK CAN TRANSITION FULLY TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FROM DOMESTIC SOURCES BY 2030

In Denmark, meeting the target of access to sustainable energy is primarily a question of supply of sustainable energy. Even though Denmark has high energy prices, including energy taxes, the vast majority of the population has access to energy that they can afford.

Denmark uses more and more renewable energy, but renewable energy still only constitutes about 30% of the total primary energy demand, while over 60% of the power production comes from renewable energy. Some of the renewable energy comes from waste incineration, with mixed waste including plastic, which is not sustainable. The renewable energy also includes combustion of some imported biomass from sources where sustainability is not guaranteed. Finally, part of the biomass is used in small ovens for heating, which gives some local pollution.

In conclusion, Denmark has not yet reached the target of sustainable energy for all. The present government has a target of 50% renewable energy by 2030. New regulations will gradually reduce the pollution from small ovens. Furthermore, public transport (trains, buses, domestic ferries) is expected to be mostly fuelled with electricity from renewable sources by 2030. In this way, in 2030 Denmark will have reached the target of affordable access to energy, with a few exceptions (see below), and the target of doubling renewable energy (from 25% in 2012 to 50% in 2030). Unfortunately, it is not certain that all the renewable energy will be sustainable in 2030 because of the use of waste incineration and the use of imported biomass from sources that are not guaranteed sustainable. The last target, doubling the rate of increase in energy efficiency, is difficult to measure, but Denmark can still do more to increase energy efficiency.

Unfortunately, it is not certain that all the renewable energy will be sustainable in 2030 because of the use of waste incineration and the use of imported biomass from sources that are not guaranteed sustainable.

ble, renewable energy from domestic sources by 2030.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Continue to increase the use of renewable energy from wind, solar and geothermal sources by introducing policies for continued installations and do so through a democratic process; Replace import of biomass and waste incineration with domestic biomass, including planting perennial energy crops and increase energy efficiency with policies in all sectors
- Replace oil-fuelled transport vehicles with electric and hydrogen-fuelled vehicles and increase public transport and bicycle use and reduce car use, including increased car-sharing
- Assist people in marginalised areas with improvements in energy efficiency and transition to renewable energy, thereby also reducing energy costs and energy poverty
- Reform energy taxes to increase taxes on fossil fuels (such as diesel oil tax) and make taxes on electricity dynamic, so electricity tax is lower in hours, where power production comes from wind and sun.

By
GUNNAR BOYE OLESEN,
POLITICAL COORDINATOR,
SustainableEnergy

SUPPORT TRULY PRO-POOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

With a billion people lacking basic modern energy access globally, there are good reasons for rich countries like Denmark to assist in reducing this poverty problem in sustainable ways. Such support for sustainable energy can be combined with Danish climate support, including Denmark's contribution to the US\$ 100 billion promised by developed countries to developing countries to support climate mitigation and adaptation by 2020. Denmark supports developing countries annually with DKK 300 million within a dedicated climate budget line in its ODA budget. Of all Danish ODA, about DKK 1.4 billion is climate related.

Denmark also supports a number of international climate and sustainable energy related initiatives, such as Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) and an energy efficiency hub at the UN City in Copenhagen, a UNEP Center in Copenhagen, IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency), which works for better access to renewable energy in developing countries, the UNFCCC's Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) in Copenhagen, which assists developing countries in getting access to climate technologies and, finally, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which, as part of its support for climate actions, also supports sustainable energy.

However, in its multilateral support, Denmark fails to ensure that the multilateral organisations are efficient in reaching out with sustainable energy to the poorest. Often, focus is on development of costly power grids or replacement of polluting fireplaces with LPG (bottled gas), which the poor cannot afford. Local solutions with renewable energy, including energy-efficient and clean-burning coo-

However, in its multilateral support, Denmark fails to ensure that the multilateral organisations are efficient in reaching out with sustainable energy to the poorest.

king stoves are both more affordable and more sustainable solutions to improve energy access for the poor. Denmark has, through bilateral assistance to Nepal and other countries, supported such more sustainable solutions for energy access.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Focus all Danish SDG7 support on better energy access to reduce poverty, including affordable solutions with local renewable energy
- Use its influence in intergovernmental organisations to make them focus on the solutions that best contribute to energy access to reduce poverty, including local renewable energy
- Increase Danish climate-related support in line with the promise from developed countries of US\$ 100 billion by 2020, part of this to be used for sustainable energy access that also limits deforestation and fossil fuel use, contributing to both SDG13 and SDG7

By
GUNNAR BOYE OLESEN,
POLITICAL COORDINATOR,
SustainableEnergy

PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

A typical work with less social rights and protection is still a big and ever-growing problem.

Employment is rising for both men and women in Denmark. However, the number of decent jobs is not rising.

Total unemployment in Denmark has, according to the ILO, decreased slightly during 2016-2017 and the decrease in unemployment is primarily among women. However, part-time employment is rising for both men and women and part-time employment with only a few hours work a week is rising in both the private and public sectors.

Denmark's problem of 'the working poor' is growing. The number of temporary employees as a percentage of the total number of employees is rising for both men and women, most sharply for women. Atypical work with less social rights and protection is still a big and ever-growing problem.

The goal of equal pay for equal work is still far away and progress is at a standstill. The wage gap between men and women is still high (15.7 % in 2016) and the effort to reduce the wage gap, especially in female dominated branches, has, as yet, shown no results.

The Danish labour market has not become more inclusive. Social rights for persons with disabilities have been weakened with the government's ambition of opening more employment possibilities, which, until now, has not led to including more persons with disabilities in the labour market. There has been no progress in including refugees in the labour market. A tripartite agreement has introduced some new initiatives to educate and introduce refugees to the Danish labour market, but, as yet, this has shown no results.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Take initiatives to analyse the political need to grant more social rights and protection to persons with atypical work and initiate a tripartite dialogue with labour market partners on how to ensure persons with atypical work decent social rights and protection
- Reduce the problem of "the working poor". Take initiatives to reduce employment with only a few hours work a week, especially in the public sector
- Initiate an evaluation of the results of the tripartite agreement on introducing refugees to the Danish labour market in 2018. Invest more effort in educating and introducing refugees, so they get a fair chance of ordinary, decent work as specified by Danish labour market agreements.

TIME FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The Danish government has placed economic growth and job creation at the heart of its efforts to promote the UN Sustainable Development Goals. However, the efforts are likely to fail without more work and dedication from the Danish government to promote responsible business conduct and the rule of law in developing countries.

The government has taken a number of initiatives to get more Danish companies and institutional investors to invest in developing countries: the Danida Market Development Partnerships fund has been launched and the amount to be invested by the Danish Industrialisation Fund for Developing Countries in tandem with Danish investors has been raised significantly.

However, stronger precautionary measures are needed to address the challenges that all too often follow private sector investments in countries scarred by a blatant disregard for human rights, corruption and tax avoidance among economic elites which are currently en route to becoming business partners with Danish companies and investors.

Investor and company adherence to strict international norms for responsible business conduct, such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPR), are urgently needed to avoid investments leading to forced displacements of poor men and women in developing countries, or the grabbing of their land.

However, several studies show that Danish companies and investors still have a long way to go in understanding and learning how to do business responsibly in line with, for example, the UNGPR. Recently, the Danish Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs has set up a cross-sector expert working group to update the current official guidance on responsible business conduct offered to Danish investors and companies. While civil society welcomes this initiative, two decades of

However, several studies show that Danish companies and investors still have a long way to go in understanding and learning how to do business responsibly in line with, for example, the UNGPR.

unsuccessful voluntary approaches firmly support our conclusion that mandatory measures are now needed to meet the challenges at hand.

In recent years, the Danish government has also cut down significantly on ODA. With more private investments flowing into the new 'growth markets' the opposite is needed. Rights holders, communities and investors all need stronger government efforts directed at ensuring respect for the rule of law and human rights. We need to provide an ecosystem for inclusive and sustainable growth, now.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Make environmental and human rights due diligence processes mandatory for large Danish companies and investors with activities in developing countries
- Monitor and regularly publish assessments of the level of adherence to international norms for responsible business conduct of Danish companies and investors
- Increase its ODA to 1% of GNI to inspire other governments to also increase funding of the ecosystem needed to achieve SDG8.

By
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ActionAid Denmark

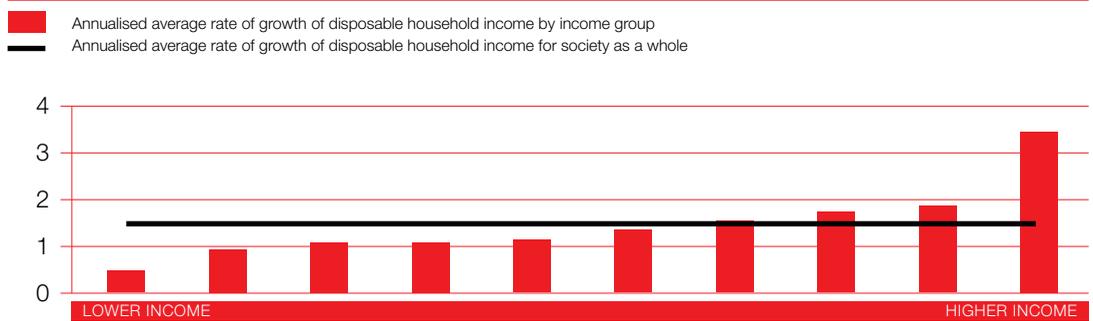
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SAMVIRKE** 

<https://www.ms.dk/rapport/ms-brancheanalyse>



DENMARK OFF TRACK: INEQUALITY ON THE RISE

AVERAGE INCOME GROWTH IN PERCENT



Note:

The Danish population is split into ten equally large groups based on level of household income post-tax and redistribution. The data is calculated on the basis of 2015-prices and adjusted for inflation.

Source:

Danmarks Statistik

ANNUALISED AVERAGE RATE OF GROWTH OF DISPOSABLE HOUSEHOLD INCOME ACROSS INCOME GROUPS IN DENMARK, 1994 - 2015

An analysis by Cevea shows that the income group in Denmark that has experienced the highest income growth since 1994 is the top 10 percent. The income growth of this group is more than double that of the national average. Furthermore, only the top 30 percent of the population experienced an above-average income growth. This is a contravention of SDG 10.1, which requires member states to sustain the income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.

TO REVERSE THE TREND, DENMARK FACES THREE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES:

- Real wage growth is concentrated at the top, while being slower for most of the population. By increasing demand for highly educated labour and eliminating jobs for unskilled and trained labour, untamed globalisation and automation may exacerbate this tendency.
- The growing significance of capital income for the overall income distribution increases inequality as capital income is more unequally distributed. The wealth of real estate-owners has increased disproportionately, making homeownership a key factor of inequality.
- Increasing economic inequality tends to increase political inequality. If inequality is to be reduced, it should not be the affluent that disproportionately influence policy.

Though still comparatively low in an OECD-context, Denmark is off track in terms of reducing inequalities.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Secure a safe and stable labour market as globalisation and technological change challenge employment terms. We should strengthen labour market institutions and update the social safety net to socialize the risks to which the less well-off are disproportionately exposed.
- Do more at a national and international level to fight tax evasion. Tax evasion is concentrated at the very top; by not considering offshore-wealth, traditional statistics underestimate levels of inequality¹. The middle and working classes are left with the bill through welfare cuts or increased tax on labour.
- Address policies that exacerbate inequality and concentrate gains at the very top. The reduction of the inheritance tax is e.g. a measure that disproportionately benefits the wealthy without creating any social value.

By
KRISTIAN WEISE,
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Cevea



¹ | Alstadsætter, Annette, Niels Johannesen & Gabriel Zucman (2017). Tax Evasion and Inequality. <http://gabriel-zucman.eu/files/AJZ2017.pdf>

SDG10

DENMARK MUST ACT ON THE HUMAN IMPACTS OF GLOBAL INEQUALITY

However, none of the Danish proposals fundamentally tackle the economic model that has led to this situation of extreme inequality.

In 2015, the governments of the world adopted an ambitious commitment to reducing inequality between and within countries, with a focus on the poorest 40%. Oxfam has, since 2015, shown the growing inequality crisis and revealed in 2017 that eight men now own as much as the poorest half of the world's population.³ If the world is to "leave no one behind" and achieve SDG 10, we must move towards a more human economy that is accountable to the whole population, not just the 1% wealthiest.

Indigenous peoples and women are two societal groups that merit special attention. While indigenous peoples constitute 5% of the global population, they account for 15% of the World's poor. Both indigenous peoples and women face discrimination in access to land rights, public participation and social services and a heightened vulnerability to risks, including climate change.²

The Danish government is focusing on economic growth, job creation, and mobilisation of domestic resources in developing countries in order to achieve SDG10³ globally. However, none of the Danish proposals fundamentally tackle the economic model that has led to this situation of extreme inequality. There is an urgent need for governments to collaborate on developing alternative economic paradigms

that are truly inclusive of those most left behind and based on solid global data on inequality and wealth levels disaggregated by gender and population groups.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Take the lead in promoting the development of alternative paradigms for economic growth that are firmly based on human rights. A starting point would be to ensure that all Danish private sector actors adhere to the UN guiding principles on business and human rights.
- Continue to support targeted programmes for the economic and political empowerment of indigenous peoples, women and other marginalised groups and promote the global adoption and implementation of ILO Convention 169, the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
- Promote and support the use of disaggregated data including both gender and ethnicity in state monitoring and reporting. In addition, new data on inequality and hidden wealth needs to be collected through global collaboration.

By
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 PROGRAMME
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 International Work Group for
 Indigenous Affairs - IWGIA and
SARA JESPERSEN,
 POLICY ADVISOR,
 Oxfam IBIS

¹ | Oxfam, 2017, *An economy for the 99%* available at <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/economy-99>

² | IWGIA, 2017: *The Indigenous World 2016*. Available at www.iwgia.org

³ | *Handlingsplan for FN's verdensmål* available at http://stm.dk/multimedia/2017_handlingsplan-for-fn-verdensmaalene.pdf



SDG 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



TRANSITION AND TRANSFORMATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SOCIETY

A key challenge in implementing the SDG goals of sustainable and resilient communities is to mobilise a much larger number and variety of people to transition our material, energy and economic life. Denmark's historic role in social innovation, equity, democracy, cooperative spirit, government accountability, defense of human rights, local resilience, civil society volunteerism and community caring can be both the rudder of our values and our navigation in promoting SDG11 at home and abroad.

At the national level, the SDGs provide a platform for values-based conversations, policies, educational programs and international relations, for new methods of community empowerment to establish dialogue with different levels of authorities, and for municipal and agency funding and resources that support fundamental transformation of the economy, social relations and infrastructure.

The Danish SDG action plan for cities and municipalities needs a more detailed plan and infrastructure for implementation by 2030. The plan currently includes no scientific-based, popular education strategy to spread knowledge about the challenges of the future. Furthermore, there is no specific focus on independent grassroots and civil society contributions. Also, the action plan needs to foster managing and sharing "The Commons" ("one planet").

Networks like Transition Towns, "The Common Best" ("Det fælles bedste") and Local Economic Development (LED) are examples of local, community initiatives as the first movers of change. Their activities are already making valuable contributions - in cooperation with the municipalities - towards building sustainable and resilient cities and communities.

Denmark's historic role in social innovation, equity, democracy, cooperative spirit, government accountability, defense of human rights, local resilience, civil society volunteerism and community caring can be both the rudder of our values and our navigation in promoting SDG11 at home and abroad.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Support research and public education programs that would advance local area community transition and increase volunteer action in collaboration with municipalities, for a sustainable more equitable and resilient future
- Support different parts of Danish society in strengthening the resilience of communities and cities in essential areas of locally-produced, owned and managed food, energy, transport, businesses, cultural activities, etc., in ways that are accountable to both the local policies for SDGs and to the local community
- Support the implementation of the concept of "The Commons" – recognition of planetary, human and social limits instead of allowing society to be damaged by pressure for continuous economic growth; protecting "the global commons" should be used as a basis for determining sustainable ways of living in cities in the future.

By
NIELS JOHAN JUHL-NIELSEN,
CO-FOUNDER,
Transitions Towns Denmark





Farvela, Para-
isopolis, in Sao
Paulo, Brazil

Foto: Tuca Vieira, Oxiham/Even it up

DANES WANT SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION - GOVERNMENT MUST RESPOND

According to the Danish Consumer Council's survey from 2016, 97 percent of Danish consumers have a strong or relatively strong wish for sustainably produced products. Therefore, Danish consumers should play a more significant part in Denmark's National Action Plan for the SDG's. The Danish government's postulation in the action plan is that Denmark is relatively close to reaching sustainable development. However, we are not.

On behalf of consumers, the Danish government should make simple and clear demands on retailers and producers to show responsible business conduct so that the consumer can feel safe shopping and without fear of violation of human rights, over-fishing, problematic chemical content or excessive environmental strain. Retailers should make sure that products marked with Fairtrade, organic or other well-known and credible labels are easily accessible. Likewise, it should be easy to access information on production and the production environment should be as transparent as possible.

It is largely the responsibility of the stores to make sure that the products they sell are produced in a way that complies with the UN's principles for responsible business conduct with respect to human rights and the environment, for example. An improvement in Denmark's international reputation and long-term position on global markets depends, among other things, on actually being a pioneer country in this area. The ISO standards for responsible business conduct could be the point of departure for a discussion on more binding rules - at least for larger companies.

The Danish government's postulation in the action plan is that Denmark is relatively close to reaching sustainable development. However, we are not.

The Danish government should make sure that organisations such as Danwatch and DIEH (The Danish Ethical Trade Initiative) should be given a long-term basis for their efforts. It should also be possible to finance an ongoing ethical rating of the investments of financial institutions, corresponding to the international project Fair Finance, as implemented in Sweden for example.

It is not sufficient just to make sustainable production and consumption a matter of the consumer's free choice, and past results must not stand in way of progress.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Make simple and clear demands on retailers and producers to show responsible business conduct
- Strengthen binding rules on responsible business conduct
- Support organisations such as Danwatch and DIEH as well as initiatives such as an ethical rating of the investments of financial institutions, which underpin the Danes' demand for responsible business conduct

By
LARS PRAM,
DIRECTOR,
The Danish Consumer Council

**Forbrugerrådet
Tænk**
Danish Consumer Council

Foto: Rainforest Action Network







Colorful beanie with rainbow stripes.

Yellow bag with text: i q r o i

Purple plastic bowl with colorful stripes.

Wicker basket.



DENMARK'S STAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION SLOWLY FADING

Denmark is perfectly placed to lead the world by example when it comes to a speedy green transition and climate change action. Strong, long-term commitment by policymakers in the past, both through targets with different time frames and through a relatively stable policy framework, has not only placed Denmark at the forefront of the renewable energy revolution, it has also provided Denmark with a sharp competitive edge when it comes to green innovation, creating jobs and welfare benefits along the way.

However, this role as a global green champion is in dire straits under the current government. Instead of providing fresh impetus to the transition, at a stage where all countries need to step up their efforts to meet the goals from Paris, they have dismantled the strong political targets set by the former government that acted as guiding stars. For instance, the former government had targets of 100% renewable energy by 2050, 100% renewable energy in the electricity and heating sector by 2035, coal phase-out by 2030 as well as a national greenhouse gas reduction target of 40% by 2020. All of these targets have been abolished. Instead, the government has introduced a 2050 goal of fossil fuel independence and a 2030 target of 50% renewable energy. Currently, renewable energy accounts for around 30% of energy consumption in Denmark (2015) – and 56% of the domestic electricity supply. The target of 50% renewable energy in 2030 represents a significant slowdown in the deployment of renewable energy and is not compatible with Danish obligations under the Paris Agreement. Denmark needs to strengthen its level of ambition significantly, or risk being left behind to the detriment of both the climate and a sustainable transition domestically.

The situation is further exacerbated by the introduction of several pieces of legislation that actively

The target of 50% renewable energy in 2030 represents a significant slowdown in the deployment of renewable energy and is not compatible with Danish obligations under the Paris Agreement.

undermine the green transition. This includes agricultural reforms that will lead to increased emissions and the removal of the PSO (Public Service Obligation) tariff from the electricity bill that both ensured stable financing of new renewable energy and increased the incentive to save energy. To add insult to injury, a broad coalition of parties decided to subsidise Maersk to extract even more oil and gas from the North Sea, despite the fact that at least 80% of currently known global reserves need to stay in the ground to meet the Paris goals.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Reinstate strong short, medium and long-term goals to drive and accelerate the green transition, eventually leading to Denmark being run on 100% green renewable energy by 2040 at the latest
- Take a definitive decision to stop further oil and gas exploration and phase out existing production as fast as possible
- Include, as part of the promised SDG impact assessment proposal, climate implications as a key indicator in impact assessments of all legislation

By
JENS MATTIAS CLAUSEN,
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Greenpeace Nordic

GREENPEACE

SDG13

PRIORITIZE CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Global warming has recently set some unfortunate records: e.g. in 2015, the world saw the largest leap in atmospheric CO2 concentrations. Climate change is already eroding development progress in poor countries. Extreme weather is an enhancing factor behind the unprecedented number of displaced people in the world, maybe pushing the total number of permanently displaced people up to 250 million between now and 2050, as recently shown in CARE Denmark's report "Fleeing Climate Change: Impacts on Migration and Displacement".

We find it positive that SDG13 is a Danish priority both in the new Danish Development and Humanitarian strategy and in the Danish Action Plan for the SDGs. However, we have some specific recommendations as to how to strengthen the Danish contribution towards SDG13:

DENMARK SHOULD:

- **Integrate climate change efforts into all relevant policies.** In order to achieve SDG13 it is of utmost importance that Denmark adopts a more holistic approach towards climate change by integrating it into all relevant policies and strategies. Hence, even though climate change is mentioned in the analysis of root causes to migration in the new Danish Foreign Affairs and Security Strategy, we regret that climate change is not a central element in any of the five priority areas. As climate change is part of the problem and analysis, it must be prioritised when designing solutions.
- **Prioritise climate change adaptation.** We regret that the Danish Development and Humanitarian Strategy only prioritises SDG13 in the area of global public goods, thereby bypassing the opportunity to address this goal

As climate change is part of the problem and analysis, it must be prioritised when designing solutions.

in individual partner countries. Particularly in poor and fragile countries, where the negative impacts of climate change are most alarming and thus the need for adaptation measures - such as new crops and weather information - most urgent. Denmark should actively contribute to the adaptation track in international climate negotiations and support the capacity of developing countries to build up climate resilience and adapt to climate change.

- **Increase climate finance and develop accurate accounting methods.** Research shows that the economic costs of adaptation will be up to 300 billion USD a year in 2030. It leaves a huge funding gap compared to the current support for adaptation. Our new report "Analysis of Danish Climate Finance" shows that Danish climate finance was cut by almost half from 2014-2015. Moreover, the report showed that this climate finance cannot be considered "new and additional" to Danish development aid and it highlighted a need for greater transparency and more accurate accounting methods when OECD countries report their climate finance. In order to contribute to the achievement of SDG13, we recommend that Denmark addresses these problems.

By
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CARE Denmark and
MATTIAS SÖDERBERG,
SENIOR ADVOCACY
ADVISOR,
DanChurchAid





FORBID POLLUTING FISH FARMS IN DANISH WATERS

The present government wants to markedly increase the production of farmed salmonoids in Danish waters, leading to a reversal of the 30 year long trend towards less pollution by nutrients.

Denmark is doing not too badly in meeting many of the targets and indicators in goal 14. In most cases, the goals are more or less in line with official Danish policies, although it can be hard to see how the targets can be reached within the stipulated time frame.

There is one blatant exception, however, where the official policy of the present government is in direct opposition to the UN targets. The present government wants to markedly increase the production of farmed salmonoids in Danish waters, leading to a reversal of the 30 year long trend towards less pollution by nutrients.

For 30 years, the cleansing of domestic waste from cities and regulations on agricultural effluents have significantly reduced the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous reaching Danish waters. In the case of nitrogen, Denmark has reached the targets set in the HELCOM agreement, but in the case of phosphorous, there is still some way to go. The fact that Denmark is nearing the targets does not mean that Danish waters are in good ecological condition. The inner waters, the Kattegat and the Southern parts of the Skagerak are still in an unsatisfactory condition, as reflected in too high concentrations of nutrients and periods of oxygen deficiency.

It therefore makes no sense for the government to allow new fish farms in the waters around the Danish peninsula of Djursland that will discharge up to 800 tons of nitrogen plus phosphorous, medicines, sea lice, emissions, antifouling compounds, and antibiotics that will promote resistance in bacteria.

The discharge of nitrogen alone will have an ecological impact far greater than if the population of Djursland were to stop cleansing their domestic waste and pour it directly into the sea. Contamination that nobody disputes.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Forbid old-fashioned, highly polluting, industrial scale fish farms in Danish waters
- Support land based fish farms in recycled water, that can be cleansed
- Support integrated aquaculture in sea farms producing algae, shellfish and low emission fish in zero emission systems, integrated with small scale, low impact fisheries.

By
JAN GRUWIER LARSEN,
Danish Association for
a Living Sea





Foto: Ruth McDowall/Shoot the Earth/ActionAid

SDG 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



URGENT NEED TO STRENGTHEN EFFORTS ON GOALS RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT

In many ways, Denmark is ahead of the field in reaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, but there has been a decline in progress towards the protection of nature and the environment, which needs to be countered with effective action. It is, therefore, encouraging that in its new action plan on the SDGs, the Danish government has chosen to focus on those goals that concern climate change and the environment.

It is the aim of the Danish government for Denmark to be a pioneer in the field of green transition, sustainable use of natural resources and energy efficiency. However, Denmark is not on target when it comes to the goals related to the protection of nature, the environment and climate change.

Several of these goals feature in various reports and surveys, such as the 2016 Biodiversity Barometer published by The Danish Society for Nature Conservation (Danmarks Naturfredningsforening) and the World Wide Fund for Nature, and they show that Denmark is lagging behind.

Three well-chosen areas are mentioned in the government's action plan to stem the loss of biodiversity: 1) better maintenance of important areas of the countryside to safeguard endangered species, (2) more untouched woodland, (3) more natural parks with a rich fauna. It would, however, have been advisable if there had been measurable targets and more specifically charted initiatives in these areas. It is, for example, unclear what the government are aiming at by "more fauna rich natural parks". It would also have been advisable if the government had prioritized to focus on biodiversity in the marine environment, which contains a significant contribution to global biodiversity conservation.

Denmark is ranked number 2 out of 149 countries in terms of reaching the Global Goals in the 2016 SDG Index & Dashboards – Global Report 2016, but for Goal 15 the picture is misleading as, among other things, the indicators for woodlands show an incre-

Denmark is not on target when it comes to the goals related to the protection of nature, the environment and climate change.

ase in woodlands in Denmark. This is the case, but it is the production area of timber which has been increasing in the period covered by the report and not the area of biologically valuable forests.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Decide to make nature and biodiversity an area of high priority with Denmark making a determined effort to reach the level of the other EU countries so that in the future, Denmark will have a rich and varied flora and fauna, striking a balance between protection of nature and exploitation of nature.
- Set goals that reflect Denmark's commitment to restoring degraded ecosystems - in accordance with SDG target 15.1, Aichi biodiversity targets 14 and 15 and goal 2 of the EU biodiversity strategy.
- Conduct a service check of the economic, legal and other incentives that impact biodiversity in Denmark, hence identifying and eliminating those incentives and incentive structures that have a negative impact on biological diversity and replacing them with incentives and structures that have a positive impact on biodiversity, in accordance with Aichi biodiversity target 3.

By
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The Danish society for Nature
Conservation

SDG15

“DENMARK FIRST” DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OFFERS HARDLY ANY SUPPORT FOR LIFE ON LAND

The importance of Sustainable Development Goal 15 concerning “Life on Land” cannot be overestimated. Consider forest ecosystems alone: around 1.6 billion people, including some 70 million indigenous people, depend on forests for their livelihood, and forests are home to more than 80 percent of all terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects. At the same time, forests play a significant role in combatting climate change. In many ways, this goal constitutes a precondition for other development goals.

Denmark has a long positive history of supporting sustainable forest management, combatting land degradation and halting the loss of biodiversity. In 2001, Denmark provided more than 1.5% of its GNI for international development, including environmental assistance.

In the last 16 years, we have witnessed a drastic decline in Denmark’s support to sustainable forest management, combat of land degradation and halting loss of biodiversity. Today, Denmark only spends 0.7% of its GNI on development aid and these funds are narrowly prioritised in a shortsighted Denmark First strategy, where development aid is used as a means to further national goals - as indicated in the recently adopted Danish Development and Humanitarian Strategy.

Support to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other environmental institutions has been cut from approx. DKK 150 million a year (2010-15) to DKK 10 million in 2017. The government plans to stop funding the UN Global Environment Facility all together. Of several bilaterally funded forest conservation activities, the Danish state only has very few left, and these will be phased out in 2018.

This discouraging trend is illustrated by the government’s action plan on the Sustainable Development Goals, where goal 15 is only mentioned once in very marginal terms.

In the last 16 years, we have witnessed a drastic decline in Denmark’s support to sustainable forest management, combat of land degradation and halting loss of biodiversity.

The government is also changing the way it provides development aid through Danish civil society. Until now, organisations have had considerable discretion in deciding which country and what sector to prioritise. Now, all main recipients must align with the priorities mentioned above. This is doomed to cause an even further decline in development work towards goal 15.

Like all other countries, Denmark has an obvious interest in protecting the forests. Due to its position as one of the richest per capita countries in the world, Denmark has a particular responsibility to help achieve Sustainable Development Goal 15.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Reverse this unconstructive trend and increase the political and financial support for Development Goal 15 by providing a pertinent incitement for populations in financially struggling countries to protect forests.

By
JAN OLE HAAGENSEN,
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DIRECTOR,
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SDG 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN OUR GENERATION

In Denmark, it took a generation to discover that it was wrong to beat children. Now it is time for our generation to eradicate violence against children. SDG 16 requires all countries to end all forms of violence against children by 2030. Yet, globally, at least 275 million children are exposed to violence at home. Changing this unacceptable figure requires bold action and dramatic change in norms and behaviour across the world.

Our own history in Denmark on corporal punishment demonstrates how pressure from civil society and international UN norms have created fundamental change. The learnings are extremely relevant as we take on the implementation of the SDGs.

TWO DECADES AGO

Not very long ago, up to half of the Danes thought it was advisable to use physical punishment in parenting. Politicians publically stated it was "outrageous" that anyone could possibly consider prohibiting parents from beating their children. Parliament was deeply split when the ban on corporal punishment was finally adopted.

That was in 1997, just two decades ago. Fortunately, in the past 20 years there have been major changes. Since the adoption of the law, the proportion of Danes who think physical punishment is acceptable as part of bringing up children has been steadily declining. Today, no parties in the Danish Parliament are in favour of parents having the right to beat their children.

Yet, we are unfortunately still far from achieving the SDG target of ending violence against children. A recent study shows that more than one in eleven 7th grade child in Denmark has been exposed to domestic violence within the last year! Clearly, this is unacceptable.

A recent study shows that more than one in eleven 7th grade child in Denmark has been exposed to domestic violence within the last year! Clearly, this is unacceptable.

MOVING FORWARD

Encouragingly, the Danish Government's National Action plan for implementation of the SDGs includes the Goal 16 target of ending violence against children by 2030. However, in the action plan, there is only focus on following the efforts of violence in close relationships.

The Danish government should increase its efforts by allocating funds for active and systematic action in the form of a comprehensive preventive policy platform - extending until 2030 and not relying on political gain.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Ensure that a comprehensive preventive policy platform includes awareness raising so that all citizens and children know their rights and know that they are entitled to grow up without domestic violence.
- Ensure better education of childcare professionals and teachers so they can spot and report violence concerns earlier.
- Ensure that parents are offered training and support in positive parenthood in order to raise children without corporal punishment - particularly vulnerable groups of children.

By
Save the Children Denmark
and Childrens Welfare



DANISH GOVERNMENT DIMINISHES REFUGEE RIGHTS IN DENMARK

Denmark will be chairing the Committee of Ministers in the Council of Europe in November 2017 and it is a clearly formulated ambition to use the chairmanship to initiate a critical discussion of the range of the Convention.

Promoting SDG16 for peace, justice and strong institutions globally has high priority for the Danish government, but Denmark's national response to global instability consists of several adjustments to the Danish Aliens Act with the political purpose of limiting the number of asylum seekers coming to Denmark. Denmark's international obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) have also been questioned.

Below are some points where refugee rights in Denmark have diminished, thus harming the inclusion process for refugees into Danish society.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION FOR REFUGEES

In January 2016, an amendment to the Danish Aliens Act was passed with the consequence that refugees with temporary protection status cannot obtain family reunification until they have had their residence permit for three years. The temporary protection status is given mainly to Syrian nationals. This legislation has led to several highly unfortunate

separations of families. It has also led to poorer integration of the refugees because they constantly worry about their family.

RESIDENCE PERMITS AT RISK OF BEING REVOKED

The Danish Immigration Service is evaluating approx. 800 residence permits for Somali refugees to assess whether the residence permits should be revoked or extension be denied. The refugees enjoy protection due to the general conditions in parts of Somalia, which the Danish Immigration Service now considers to be safe areas.

It is highly questionable whether the conditions in the specific areas of Somalia have changed sufficiently. At the same time, the process of evaluation has created a high degree of fear and uncertainty amongst the Somali refugees in Denmark. This uncertainty makes it difficult to have a meaningful integration process.

HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER PRESSURE

The Danish Government is highly critical about the dynamic interpretation of the ECHR. Denmark will be chairing the Committee of Ministers in the Council of Europe in November 2017 and it is a clearly formulated ambition to use the chairmanship to initiate a critical discussion of the range of the Convention. This ambition could lead to loss of rights and weaken the respect for human rights.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Ensure that refugees can be safely united with their families in the host country
- Ensure that cessation of protection is always based on the 1951 Convention criteria
- Continue to preserve and promote respect for human rights both nationally and internationally

By
ANDREAS KAMM,
SECRETARY GENERAL,
Danish Refugee Council



ECONOMIC INCENTIVES ARE IMPORTANT

Denmark has been a driving force for important parts of climate as well as environmental policy. One tool has been economic incentives that have made energy conservation, renewables and less polluting products more competitive. A crucial element has been a relatively high proportion of green taxes in the tax policy. Scientists and many economists in Denmark and elsewhere have, for many years, recommended green tax shifts – with more taxes on fossil fuels and pollution and fewer taxes on income. In the 90ies the Danish government agreed on and developed a strong sector of green technology sector and experienced a fast growing export of greener energy technologies.

However, since 2001 very little progress has been made on environmental taxes. Green taxes are now seen as a “job killer” that impedes competitiveness. In fact this only applies to a small minority of companies as many other companies have gained because energy conservation, renewables and less polluting products have become more competitive.

As an example, in November 2016, Denmark decided to gradually phase out the PSO (Public Service Obligation) – a “tax-like” fee that is put on top of the price of electricity, financing support for new renewables. This will lead to cheaper electricity, and, subsequently, increased electricity consumption. The Danish government and industrial organisations are now campaigning for the reduction or total removal of electricity taxes. Their justification is competitiveness and the need to enhance the use of electric cars and heat pumps, which are important steps towards sustainability and a low carbon economy, but only comprise a very small proportion of electricity consumption.

However, since 2001 very little progress has been made on environmental taxes. Green taxes are now seen as a “job killer” that impedes competitiveness.

Right now, Danish electricity consumption is increasing, and it is expected to increase further in the coming years, partly because of the abandonment of the PSO and establishment of very large data centres (Google, Apple and Facebook) in Denmark. Denmark is also increasing the amount of renewables, but the increased electricity consumption can lead to a much slower transition than needed, because the increased capacity of renewables is “eaten up” by increased consumption.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Re-enter the road of green tax shifts – tax what you burn, not what you earn!
- Stop the reduction of taxes on fossil fuels and introduce a tax on combustion of biomass
- Stop the reduction of taxes on cars and prepare for the introduction of road pricing

By
CHRISTIAN EGE,
HEAD OF SECRETARIAT,
The Danish Ecological Council



IT IS TIME FOR DENMARK TO UP ITS GAME ON PROGRESSIVE TAXATION

Ultimately, tax justice is not just about how much is collected, but also about how and from whom, as well as what the revenue is spent on and who has the power of decision on all of the above. Above all it is a global agenda.

While development aid remains crucial, progressive domestic revenue mobilisation (DRM) is the key source of finance in the long run to deliver progress towards the SDGs for developing countries.

Scandal after scandal has revealed the outrageous scale of global tax avoidance and use of tax havens by multinational companies and the world's richest people, depriving countries of crucial tax revenue. Developing countries are disproportionately disadvantaged by this. It is estimated that developing countries lose more money due to the use of tax havens than they receive in official development assistance¹. Changing this and achieving SDG 17.1 will require more than support for technical assistance and capacity building, it will require reforms of current tax systems and practices, as well as the willingness of other countries, including Denmark, to deliver and support these global reforms.

Denmark has come a long way in fighting aggressive tax planning and tax havens, most recently with its "Tax Haven package" and through the EU. Denmark has also supported the inclusive framework on BEPS² and the Addis tax initiative³. Both are important initiatives that go part of the way. However, neither of the initiatives will deliver real progress

for developing countries towards truly sustainable means of ensuring DRM, as they do not tackle the fundamental need to ensure ownership and inclusion of developing country agendas and civil society. Ultimately, tax justice is not just about how much is collected, but also about how and from whom, as well as what the revenue is spent on and who has the power of decision on all of the above. Above all it is a global agenda.

DENMARK SHOULD:

- Support the establishment of a strong, and well-resourced, intergovernmental body on international tax cooperation with equal representation of all countries;
- Ensure policy coherence and transparency by undertaking spill-over analyses of its own tax practices including double taxation agreements and subsequently take the required actions to ensure tax policies and practices do not undermine development policies⁴;
- Resist and overturn the race to the bottom by recognising the important role of corporate taxation in relation to redistribution and in fighting inequality, and refrain from participating in the race to the bottom on corporate tax rates.

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¹ | See for instance <http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/ending-the-era-of-tax-havens-why-the-uk-government-must-lead-the-way-601121> and http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/how_tax_havens_plunder_the_poor.pdf

² | An initiative by the OECD to broaden the participation in their project to limit base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)

³ | which includes the commitment for donors to double their support for DRM by 2020

⁴ | For further information see the guiding framework by ActionAid "Stemming the Spill" <https://www.ms.dk/skat/rapporter>

MELLEMFOLKELIGT SAMVIRKE 

 **OXFAM IBIS**

HUGE POTENTIAL FOR LOCAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

The launch of the Global Goals in Denmark received an immediate and encouraging response from both the usual actors within development education and awareness raising and from new groups like the environmental and climate movement, the private sector, and public institutions.

The Goals are seen as attractive to work with and as an inclusive framework, which can accommodate all groups of society. That makes the SDG's easy to connect with. However, the arrival of many new, "unusual" actors suddenly created a situation where there was not a "normal roadmap" for the partnerships and activities.

This was seen when the Government produced its plan of action for the Goals, it was seen in the way internationally oriented CSO's have been meeting more nationally oriented CSO's or private enterprises. The same goes for the municipalities; despite having their own SDG11, local authorities see themselves in a new situation: "How to accommodate civil society, which is already actively implementing the goals into work plans and campaigns with private sector initiatives and into public policies and awareness raising for citizens?"

The Danish Government decided to support World's Best News (WBN) as a new platform for communicating the Global Goals from 2017. The World's Best News is a multistakeholder initiative, originally initiated by Danish CSO's.

Since 2015, a core objective of the platform has been to communicate the SDG's to the Danish population at large. Under the headline "We have a Plan – 17 Global Goals to Save the World" in 2016 and "We are Generation Global Goals" in 2017,

Parliament should ensure that the Global Goals for Sustainable Development are introduced and taught to all primary and secondary school learners.

WBN is campaigning nationwide in partnership with CSO's, the private sector, UN, the Danish government, and, in particular, Danish youth associations. WBN is also coordinating the World's Largest Lesson, targeting Danish primary and secondary schools. In 2016, all Danish schools received colourful posters with the Goals.

Amongst the Danish youth divisions of the political parties, there is an agreement that Denmark should ensure that all primary and secondary school learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development as described in the SDG4.7 target.

IN DENMARK ...

- ...municipalities should use the SDG's as a framework for involving citizens, private businesses and CSO's in local sustainable agendas.
- ...parliament should ensure that the Global Goals for Sustainable Development are introduced and taught to all primary and secondary school learners.
- ...the government should create an SDG-facility which can accommodate and support new partnerships and coalitions, which is a prerequisite for successful awareness raising and the implementation of the SDG's in Denmark.

By
**THOMAS
RAVN-PEDERSEN,**
CEO, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
World's Best News

**WORLD'S
BEST
NEWS**



WHAT WILL DENMARK LOOK LIKE IN 2030?

– CIVIL SOCIETY REVIEWS DENMARK'S EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

This report is published by *ActionAid Denmark*.

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