

2019 ECOSOC Financing for Development (FfD) Forum
General Debate, April 2019
Statement by Denmark

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Building on the statement delivered by the European Commission on behalf of the EU and its Member States, allow me to provide a few remarks in my national capacity.

2019 is a key year for the international community in tacking stock on progress made so far on our path towards sustainable development in the World by 2030.

Let's be clear – we have achieved a lot, and a lot of results are happening as we speak. But let's also be honest: It is not enough. The transformative changes demanded by the 2030 Agenda are not being realised at the required pace.

We therefore need to strongly accelerate our efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030. This was a key message from the Secretary-General earlier this year.

If we are to do so, we also need a transformative shift in our mind-sets. We need to break old habits of how we look at financing development. It is not a question of providing ODA vs. bringing in the private sector vs. mobilising domestic resources – we need all resources being brought into play, if we are to succeed.

Today, I want to reaffirm Denmark's strong commitment to do our part. And let me to provide a few examples of how Denmark is contributing on all three fronts that I just mentioned.

First, Denmark has proudly been delivering on the UN target on providing 0.7 percent of our GNI in for more than 40 consecutive years. And we will continue to honour the 0.7 target in the future as well. Other countries need to deliver on old promises as well.

Second, Denmark has strengthened our engagement in partnerships with the private sector to mobilize additional financing. In 2018, we established a Danish SDG Investment Fund as a public-private partnership between the Danish state and a number of private enterprises. This Fund could contribute to new, sustainable investments in the amount of 30 billion Danish kroner in the poorest countries in the world.

This is a concrete example of the paradigm shift we need: We cannot meet the SDGs and lift people out of poverty without private investments. And we need to think of ways in using ODA as a catalyst in ramping up development financing by an order of magnitude – meaning moving “from billions to trillions.”

Third, we are supporting developing countries in building capacity for mobilising domestic resources. The area of taxation, for one, holds enormous potential: If we can increase tax collection by just 1 percent in developing countries, we will be looking at approximately twice the value of total ODA available today. Denmark is financially supporting the Global Tax Programme

of the World Bank and the Revenue Mobilization Trust Fund of the IMF. And we are involving the expertise of the Danish tax authorities in the delivery of the coordinated programmes.

The examples mentioned are only a few out of many more. But they underline in clear and concrete terms that Denmark puts action behind our words, when we say we want to contribute on all fronts to realise the 2030 Agenda.

Let us jointly put our pedal to the metal for the sake of our peoples and our planet.

Thank you.