Statement by Denmark,

Annual Session of the Board of UN Women, Pledging Event

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E-mail: nyemis@um.dk
http://finnewyork.um.dk
PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK
to the United Nations

Denmark has been a strong supporter of UN Women since its establishment in 2010. Our support rests on a firm belief in the importance of Gender Equality in order to fulfil the rights of women and achieve sustainable development.

UN Women is now well established. The entity has a strong country presence and you are delivering results on the ground every day while contributing to enhancing the normative framework here in New York.

Gender equality will be a prominent feature in the post 2015-development agenda. We will all be working hard to achieve the future we want for women.

We are ambitious – but during the first years of the existence of UN Women the funding provided was not sufficient. We are very happy that last year in particular donors increased their contributions to UN Women and that the Entity is now closer to achieving its funding targets.

Also, Denmark has consistently increased its funding. While Denmark supported UN Women with 3.5 million USD in core funding in 2011, I am happy to confirm that the people of Denmark will contribute more than 10 million USD in core funding to UN Women in 2014. On top of that Denmark contributes non-core funding of more than 1.5 million USD.

In addition to the increased core contribution, Denmark will in 2014 contribute an additional 5 pct. of the increased core contribution to the establishment of so-called ‘innovation facilities’ within all the UN Funds and Programmes in New York. These facilities will provide the organisations with a flexible instrument to develop and test new ideas and projects. The funds will shoulder some of the inherent risks in such undertakings while – hopefully – enhancing
the overall performance of the organisations. In 2014 the Danish contribution to innovation in UN Women amounts to 500,000 USD.

Last year we approved an ambitious strategic plan for UN Women, and UN Women has successfully prepared the entity for delivering on the plan.

Now is the time for all supporters of the gender equality agenda to provide the necessary funding in order for UN Women to be able to deliver effectively and comprehensively on its mandate and on the strategic plan. Therefore we are saluting all countries that have already increased their contributions and we are urging all countries with the means to do so to also increase their support.

At the same time a word of caution. While the donor base is broad and many countries support UN Women, a limited number of countries contribute more than 50 percent of the core contributions. To ensure the sustainability of the funding for UN Women, it is necessary that the substantive part of the funding comes from a larger number of donors.

Our efforts should be guided by the needs of the women who depend on the UN to help them increase their possibilities and fulfill their rights. With that in mind we are looking very much forward to our continued cooperation with UN Women under the able leadership the Executive Director.

Thank you,