

**Klimarepræsentantens tale ved konference om klima og sikkerhed i Freiburg
fredag d. 7. november 2008**

[Intro]

Ladies and gentlemen.

[Thank you very much for the kind introduction]. I have really been looking forward to addressing this conference.

I was particularly impressed to see a programme with such a diversity of speakers from both government, civil society and business. My background for standing here today is my role as climate representative for the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As such, I will focus my speech on the interlinkages between foreign policy, climate change and security.

[Den int. dagsorden]

Today, climate change is at the top of the international agenda. The reason is well known: The world's increasing use of fossil fuels and the increase in greenhouse gas emissions are impacting our living conditions and threatening our aim of achieving stability and security, human well-being, global freedom, and prosperity. And we are faced with a dilemma: Either we continue to increase our use of energy from fossil fuels and, thereby gradually undermine our very existence. Or, we drastically reduce our energy consumption, and our societies will come to a standstill. Both avenues are unacceptable, so what to do? The answer is as simple as it is daunting: we have to change our way of life.

[Bæredygtig udvikling som ramme]

“Peace, development, and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible”. This statement is not a conclusion from the climate change debate in the Security Council in April last year or from the recent MDG summit in New York in September. It is one of the Principles agreed to at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro back in 1992.

When the Rio Summit took place 16 years ago awareness of climate change was limited compared to now. And yet, in realizing the potential threat of climate change, countries gathered in Rio to initiate global action and to sign the Climate Convention.

The Brundtland report on “Our Common Future” that fostered the concept of sustainable development was a fresh backdrop to the Rio Summit. Climate change was treated in the broad global context of sustainable development. 16 years later, this is more relevant than ever.

Climate change puts the world’s carrying capacity under increasing pressure. The ecosystems that provide food, water, and shelter are being degraded by an unprecedented combination of climate change and other strains on natural resources.

Up to 250 million Africans may experience water stress. People in dry and tropical regions risk hunger due to decreasing crop productivity. Millions of people in mega-deltas of Asia, Africa, and in small islands risk flooding due to

sea-level rise. In poor and vulnerable regions of the world, the climate hazards interact with poverty and population growth. Conflicts will only intensify the competition for the world's resources. Some day "*nature strikes back*". The linkages between climate change and security will become stronger.

[Migration]

In many parts of the world, environmental degradation will ultimately leave people with no other option than to migrate. We see this in the drought affected areas in Africa. Migration may also be the only option for people in low-lying territories that will disappear as a consequence of sea level rise. Estimates indicate that at least 160 million people in coastal areas are at risk. Large population movements have the potential to seriously destabilise affected regions, particularly if there are pre-existing ethnic and social tensions.

It is not just in developing countries that climate change can cause large-scale migration of people. Hurricane Katrina and the recent Hurricane Gustav are striking examples. Hurricane Katrina made around 1.5 million Americans temporarily leave their homes. This - at the time - was the largest number of people in American history. However, the figure was exceeded with Hurricane Gustav when more than 2 million people were evacuated in southern Louisiana.

[Arktis]

In the Arctic region, a range of climate related challenges are emerging. The ice sheet is melting, glaciers are retreating, and the changes in the natural ecosystems also change peoples' lives. Melting sea ice and thawing permafrost, have wider geo-strategic implications. This includes new

waterways and competition over newly accessible natural resources with potential ensuing disputes over maritime zones and land territories formerly covered by ice. These challenges are different from those affecting millions of people in the developing world. But they have one thing in common: They are potential security risks.

[Vision og ambition]

We must set a new course. A course based on our responsibility to leave the Planet in a state that enables future generations to meet their needs too. Freedom, security, and prosperity are overriding goals. Climate change, although not a visible enemy, poses a threat to these goals.

We must today look in admiration at those who fostered the Climate Convention in Rio 16 years ago. It states that the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere must be stabilized to prevent dangerous human interference with our climate and to ensure sustainable food production and economic development.

To achieve this, an ambitious global climate deal is needed next year in Copenhagen. This is a top priority for the Danish government. Getting there will be a huge challenge for Denmark, for the EU – and for the entire world.

[Udenrigspolitiske instrumenter]

Climate challenge is much more than an environmental issue. Implications take us beyond negotiating within the framework of the UNFCCC. Foreign policy instruments must be used to address the challenge.

Let me mention five areas where foreign policy instruments can play an important role in enhancing the international response to climate change.

First, we must make better use of existing foreign policy and diplomatic channels.

Foreign service networks are well suited to pave the way for tackling climate change. Areas of work include:

- building coalitions;
- ensuring an effective multilateral system
- creating a shared vision and coherent approach
- increasing awareness through public diplomacy;

Second, climate change is a major development challenge. We need to do more to integrate climate change into development cooperation. While climate change so far has largely been caused by actions of developed countries, the developing countries are the most vulnerable and the countries that suffer the most. Development is needed to make communities more resilient to the effects of climate change. International development finance can have a catalytic role in many areas.

Third, the security dimensions of climate change must be addressed. The High Representative and the European Commission presented a joint report on this issue to the European Council in March 2008. As the report to the European Council pointed out, climate change is of course not the sole cause of insecurity and conflict. Climate change can act as a threat multiplier exacerbating existing

tensions and instability. However, climate change may also in itself give rise to new security tensions.

The ultimate threat is loss of territory and disputes over land and maritime borders. Ask people in Tuvalu or low-lying Bangladesh. Their land, their homes, their nation and their survival are at risk. The enemy is invisible, and they cannot send the navy to fight greenhouse gas emissions or sea level rise.

Responding to climate change is also an opportunity that can unite communities and drive cooperation at national, regional and international level. Denmark has been in the forefront of exploring these issues by, amongst other initiatives, producing a report on the integration of climate change and foreign policy and one on the security implications of climate change in West Africa. We are still pursuing this agenda and are currently supporting regional studies that will provide more information about the links between climate change and security in Africa and in the Middle East. We will also be working to promote international cooperation mechanisms to address the concrete problems arising from climate change.

Fourth, energy security has become an ever more important foreign policy issue. In wealthy countries, energy security is a serious challenge, but the challenges that our fellow citizens in the developing countries are facing are even bigger. Here, 1.6 billion people live without access to modern energy.

The daunting need for energy in China, India and other developing countries is a challenge. But it is also an opportunity. Now is the time to craft climate

friendly energy policies. Now is the time to diversify our energy supply so that we are not mainly dependent on fossil fuels. Now is the time to leapfrog into an era of climate friendly and energy efficient solutions, because if we don't, the fast-growing developing economies will create gigantic ecological problems. In Denmark, we have managed to disconnect economic growth from growth in energy consumption: While our economy has grown more than 70 percent in real terms during the past 25 years, we have not increased our energy consumption.

Fifth, there is a need to strengthen climate change in trade and investment policy. Many countries have a strong potential for promoting green trade and investment. In Denmark, for example, renewable energy technology has become a major export business. Every third wind turbine worldwide originates from Denmark.

Trade in clean energy must be further developed through political foresight, climate friendly regulation and a stable policy framework. Then we have the opportunity of creating a new industrial revolution. This time it can be green. This time it can be based on advances in climate friendly technology. And this time there are win-win opportunities for our economies and our environment.

[Main actors and fora]

Those were the five overall foreign policy instruments I wanted to mention. Now, let me finish by making some points about the major actors and fora for addressing climate change.

The European Union is a leading player. The EU is the world's biggest single market, the world's biggest trading block, and the world's biggest provider of official development assistance. There is still a long way to go in integrating climate change into decision making at all levels within the EU but we are on the right course. The EU should continue to play a leading intellectual, technological, and financial role in the international response to climate change.

But the EU can certainly not do it alone. Our efforts will be in vain without the active engagement of other international partners. It is essential that other major emitters such as the US, China, and India engage in the multilateral efforts. Fortunately, we see that the momentum is increasing

With regards to which fora to turn to, it is clear that a strong response to climate change depends on effective multilateral institutions. We must work within the United Nations framework to finalise an agreement in 2009 whilst drawing on input and processes from other fora. And we must also integrate climate change considerations into the work of International Financial Institutions, the WTO and regional cooperation.

[Afrunding – spørgsmål til debat]

Before finishing I would like to raise two final questions that perhaps can serve to inspire our debate.

First, climate change and security is often discussed with a view to the effects in Africa and Asia – or in other words – the effect that it has far from Europe’s shores.

But are there any direct security risks for Europe related to climate change?

Even if we were considerably affected by, for example, sea level rises and more frequent and severe storms in the future would these challenges be great enough to constitute actual direct threats to European security?

Secondly, what multilateral framework is needed to tackle climate change and security effectively? Which tools should be reinforced and is there a need for new ones? Perhaps we already have the tools at our disposal but we just need to apply them to this new challenge?

Ladies and gentlemen,

I hope it is clear from what I have said this morning that in contrast to traditional foreign policy and security threats, climate change is not caused by visible, “hostile” enemies. It is about our production and consumption patterns. This time it is not about military defence of a way of life. It is about changing it.

Thank you.