

**Framework Convention on Climate Change
Conference of the Parties
Sixth session**

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Intervention by Svend Auken, Danish Minister of Environment and Energy, at the 6th Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention, The Hague, November 21, 2000.

Distinguished colleagues and friends.

We are in this together.

North and South.

Rich and poor.

Present generations and future generations.

The destabilization of the climate system is the biggest threat to the environment.

Not all countries have caused climate change, but we will all suffer from it. Not least many poor countries in the South will pay a high price for climate change.

The global threat has to be met. Global action is called for. We have come to act, not to dilute the call for action.

Our task is not to get around the problem, but to deal with the problem. In an efficient but also equitable way.

Our success does not depend on our diplomatic skill to avoid enforceable obligations, but on our political will to achieve real reductions in the greenhouse-gas emissions.

A global compromise has to be found. The impact of such a compromise should be to enhance the environmental integrity of the Kyoto Protocol – not to undermine its modest reduction targets.

In such a global compromise the salient points should be:

1. **Emphasis on domestic action in the North.** We can never hope to accomplish anything, if we dare not face our own people and tell them that unless they are prepared to change production and consumption patterns, emissions will keep rising and the necessary technologies will not be developed. Of course we all are hampered by electoral constraints, but leadership is not to toe the line of expediency, but to show the way of solution.
2. **Clear and enforceable rules** to prevent the erosion of the integrity of the Protocol.

The rules for the inclusion of sinks must avoid crediting of projects that would have happened anyway and crediting of do-nothing sinks. This is absolutely key.

And the rules for the supplementary Kyoto mechanisms must avoid loopholes and frauds. We need to promote real reductions and at the same time promote technology innovation and transfer.

In that spirit Denmark - as the first country in the world - has imposed tradable CO₂ emission quotas on the power industry. And together with Nordic colleagues we have proposed to let the Baltic region be used as a testing ground for JI projects and emissions trading. Similarly we will work with a number of developing countries to prepare for CDM projects.

3. **Additional funds and sound technologies** should be made available to all parts of the developing world. In particular the interests of the least developed countries and the most affected nations should be respected. So far the rich countries despite tremendous growth have failed to deliver on their solemn promises in Rio 8 years ago. As experience shows, being rich does not necessarily mean becoming generous.

Funds should be made available on a regional basis through increased contributions from rich countries investing in saving our common future. New funds could partly be channelled through the GEF provided it becomes more responsive to less developed countries needs.

In the longer run levies in the use of the Kyoto mechanisms could provide additional funds for clean development projects in the developing world.

To reach the necessary financing all developed countries should contribute. It is neither fair nor sufficient to leave the financing to the usual 5 – 10 nations. No one should be allowed to escape his duty.

A common target could be fixed to be reached no later than in the first budget period. Even the modest proposal of 0.1 per cent of GNPs in additional funds would be a great step forward. I would strongly support such a minimum proposal.

- 4. The international co-operation in the area of developing and applying effective policies and measures should be strengthened and policies with perverse or negative impact on greenhousegas emissions should be identified and phased out.**

Based on these principles, and in the common global interest, a compromise should be possible that would allow us to ratify the protocol before Rio + 10 in 2002.

The Kingdom of Denmark has committed herself to a 21% reduction of her greenhouse-gas emissions in the first budget period. And we will reach that target by domestic policies. Not least through massive renewable efforts.

Furthermore Denmark is not shrinking from her international obligations. Our ODA has not only exceeded our 1% target of GNP – we are now close to 1.2% - but we have pledged to provide additional funds not least for environmental purposes.

The achievement of sustainable energy solutions in developing countries and countries in transition is an integrated part of our development funding. Thus over the next five years we have committed and planned to spend more than 500 millions US Dollars on climate change activities most of which will come from additional funds.

We call upon all countries to do their duty under the formula of the common but differentiated responsibilities. We have to act in the Hague. The price of failure will be high. For all of us.

Thank you