

Framework Convention on Climate Change  
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*Check against delivery*

Statement by Mr. Svend Auken  
Danish Minister for Environment and Energy

Buenos Aires  
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Madame President,

Denmark fully supports the statement expressed by my excellent colleague Mr. Martin Bartenstein on behalf of the European Union.

We have come to Buenos Aires to make a deal. A new deal. A necessary deal. A global climate deal. Here in Buenos Aires.

Rich countries and poor countries must agree to work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We cannot leave to our children and grand children a completely destabilised climate system. We must act *now*.

In Kyoto, rich countries took upon themselves to stabilise and reduce their emissions. But they also undertook to transfer the best available technology to poor countries so that they in their development could avoid to repeat all the mistakes that rich countries have made in their development.

So far industrialised countries have little to show in achieving these two aims. And the developing world is becoming restless.

The climate change problem is growing and we must act now. Together.

Two days ago, the International Energy Agency published in its World Energy Outlook a new business as usual projection for the rise of CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels in the coming two decades compared to the situation today: By the year 2010 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are projected to increase by 45%, and in the year 2020 the rise in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions may be a staggering 75%. The world is still moving in the wrong direction. And we move faster and faster. Therefore we must act now.

The Buenos Aires climate deal should rest on two pillars:

*The first pillar* should be a firm commitment from developed countries to co-operate with developing countries in making available - on affordable terms - all the necessary technology to avoid huge increases in greenhouse gas emissions when developing countries' economies grow.

We should work together in projects of investments and joint solutions. And we should do so whether we - the north - get the credit or not. It is a bit of a disgrace if the rich only are prepared to help poor countries avert a common disaster if they - the rich world - end up with all the credit.

Denmark supports strongly a viable Clean Development Mechanism provided it funds new projects with additional funds. But also outside the framework of CDM, Denmark is willing to promote co-operation in the fields of energy efficiency and a shift to renewable energy.

The first part of the Buenos Aires climate deal is simple: Rich countries must make the commitment now to provide additional funds for sustainable energy use in the developing world - among others through the CDM.

In return, developing countries must agree to work out the necessary national strategies and report to the climate secretariat as to allow for a constructive review process.

*The second pillar* of the Buenos Aires climate deal must address industrialised countries' obligations under the climate change convention and the Kyoto protocol.

The duty to act at home to change production and consumption patterns leading to more sustainable energy use should be spelled out. Creative book keeping can never replace concrete savings and real reductions in our own countries. If we fail to make our own citizens our partners in achieving real reductions, we will never succeed.

Flexible mechanisms like emission trading and joint implementation can be good supplements to domestic action, if it is not trading in "hot air" and if it is ruled by strong, transparent and enforceable regulations. We are opening up new traffic here; therefore we must have clear traffic rules and wise cops.

Denmark is already very active in many projects of energy efficiency in Central and Eastern Europe and the results are promising. We will continue whether we are getting the credit or not.

In our own country, we will also use market mechanisms to reach our ambitious target of 21% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions before 2008-2012. For instance, Denmark will - I believe - be the first country to introduce tough and binding CO<sub>2</sub> quotas for its power generation industry.

To make the efficient rules for the flexible mechanisms we need a strong mandate and a strong timetable making ensuring that the necessary decisions are made no later than the year 2000.

Industrial countries are not digging their economic graves if they reduce greenhouse gas emissions. On the contrary: a modern economy, based on sustainable energy use, is potentially also a very rich economy and the quality of life of its citizens is much enhanced. Sustainable energy use is not only a road to salvage the climate system; it can also lead to new jobs and new prosperity. For developing and developed countries alike.

United we may prevail. Divided we certainly fail.

The time has come to make the global climate deal. And the place is Buenos Aires.