DENMARK

1. Measures to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015

The Danish Government adopted a new strategy for development cooperation in 2010 which is guided by the MDGs. The strategy focuses on five political priorities essential for fighting poverty and reaching the MDGs: 1) Freedom, democracy, and human rights are crucial for social and economic progress as well as long-term stability; 2) Economic growth and employment are decisive for eradicating extreme poverty and generating public resources; 3) Gender equality and the empowerment of women is a goal in itself and a vital means to generate growth and fighting poverty; 4) Fragile states are furthest away from achieving the MDGs because persistent conflicts and instability constitute a hindrance to reducing poverty; and 5) Climate change, environmental problems and natural disasters threaten to destroy emerging development.

The majority of Danish aid will continue to go to Africa which is lagging behind in achieving the MDGS.

2. Changes in development policy, and what drives them

Denmark's new strategy development cooperation is the Government's response to the most critical current challenges to development. It entails a concentration of efforts to key priority areas, a concentration of Denmark's development cooperation to fewer countries and fewer sectors, and increased focus on documentation and communication of results. Denmark is phasing out from a number of partner countries and plans to further concentrate its assistance during the coming years to ensure maximum impact of its development assistance.

3. Measures to increase the predictability of aid

Co-operation is based on long-term partnerships with partner country governments. Planning of aid flows is based on government-to-government agreements with 5 year planning horizons. From 2011, support to partner countries will be detailed in the Danish finance act including planned aid commitments for the following 4 years, which will allow for increased predictability on committed projects and programmes.