

Delegation from the Kingdom of Denmark
Position Paper for the United Nations Development Program

The topics before the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are: Improving Gender Equality to Promote Economic Development and Sustainable Energy for Development. The Kingdom of Denmark understands the importance of these topics as they directly pertain to our energy resource policy and more importantly can have a profound impact on more than half of humanity's social and economic wellbeing. The Kingdom of Denmark looks forward to working with fellow Member States on these critical issues at our upcoming conference.

I. Improving Gender Equality to Promote Economic Development

The Kingdom of Denmark calls for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to address the pressing issue of extreme poverty. According to the UNDP, about 10% of the global population, in 2022, lives in extreme poverty and 388 million are women, which is more than half. While the Gender Inequality Index (GII) has indicated that there has been an upward trend in gender equality globally, this remains a major issue, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Arab world. In some cases, gender inequality has increased especially when exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. With the advent of COVID-19, women accounted for 54% of job loss even though they accounted for only 44% of global employment, many women took on unpaid care, domestic work, or other forms of labour that is part of the informal economy. If these forms of work were properly documented, they can be market valued, taxed, and added to the gross domestic product of Member States. If they were accounted for properly, the value of unpaid domestic and care work would add up to \$1.48 trillion dollars or 2.35% of global GDP in 2020. Denmark wishes to address this issue as we believe that with proper planning, encouragement, and cooperation; we can bring out the potential of these disadvantaged women with various opportunities and empowerment.

The United Nations has played a crucial role in championing gender equality and fostering opportunities for women through a series of landmark resolutions and initiatives. Among these, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW), adopted in 1979, stands out as a foundational document, committing member states to eradicate gender-based discrimination and promote women's rights. The *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* further solidified global commitments to gender equality, outlining strategic objectives across critical areas such as education, health, and political participation. Through campaigns addressing gender-based violence and discrimination, the UN continues to strive towards creating a more inclusive and equitable world where women and men can equally contribute to and benefit from sustainable development efforts. The UN has also established committees such as United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), which work with local actors and other organizations to grant opportunities for women to enter the formal labour sector along with integrating care work into the economy. Regionally, Europe has played a key role in advancing women to be equal to men in society, law, and economics. The European Union has adopted the Gender Equality Strategy whose objective is to promote women's right and make them equal in law and economics. The plan mandates gender balance in corporate boards, breaking down stereotypical barriers between careers, decreasing the gender pay gap, and increasing female labor market participation and economic independence. Denmark has been a frontrunner in the fight for gender equality. They have paid paternal and maternal leave, which encourages men to be at home without risking their careers and encourage women to pursue their careers without sacrificing their familial wants and responsibilities.

The Kingdom of Denmark proposes that firstly, Member States work with UN institutions such as UN Women, the UNDP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and other associated agencies to create programs and policies intended to lessen the burdens of child care and other forms of domestic work that are often unfairly assigned to women and girls. This collaborative could make contact with private corporations to plan how these policies can be executed. Secondly, Denmark also encourages the integration of these informal economies into the formal sector so that these women may gain payment for the crucial work that they do. Denmark wishes to work with Member States to establish a program to execute the plan under our respective national governments, supported by financial institutions around the globe and the United Nations.

II. Sustainable Energy for Development

According to a report by the International Energy Agency, 675 million people worldwide lack access to electricity and 80% of this group live in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. Without access to electricity, development is exponentially harder, especially for developing and low-income countries to progress as it affects many factors of people's livelihoods including food, healthcare services, transportation, education, and many more. The global energy deficient only continues to worsen as energy consumption increases with the creation and utilization of new technologies or burgeoning industries; power usage has increased from 158,097 terawatt hours in 2012 to 178,899 terawatt hours in 2022, outpacing generation of primary electricity sources. In a report about the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is projected that 679 million people will be without access to electricity by 2030. Furthermore, renewable and sustainable energy only accounts for 18% of primary energy consumption. While transitioning the sustainable energy methods is financially costly in comparison to fossil fuel methods, the costs of not following through is worse. The Kingdom of Denmark expresses its concern that the issues must be tackled as they not only affect the citizens it immediately concerns but also fellow Member States abroad as impediment to sustainable development weakens our fight against climate change, which will weaken our economies in the long run as its consequences manifest in our environment.

The United Nations have been instrumental in driving global efforts to promote sustainable energy, recognizing its critical role in achieving environmental sustainability and mitigating climate change. The UN started their advances toward sustainable energy and overall environmental concerns with the adoption of the *Rio Declaration* in 1992, which established sustainable development as a shared international responsibility. The UN has also adopted *Agenda 21* and *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), which laid out an comprehensive plan to achieve said goals discussed in the *Rio Declaration* and recognized the issues that come with climate change with a call to action to Member States to resolve them, respectively. At the heart of these endeavors lies the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 7, which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. Through the SDGs, the UN has provided a framework for nations to prioritize renewable energy sources, improve energy efficiency, and expand access to clean energy technologies, thus fostering economic development while mitigating environmental impacts. Regionally, Europe has taken efforts to merge their already established energy networks into the Energy Union. Its goals have been the diversification of energy sources, improvement of energy security, increased energy efficiency, sharing of energy across national borders, and supporting research toward lower carbon emitting technologies. Denmark, known for its pioneering efforts in renewable energy, has set ambitious targets for reducing carbon emissions and transitioning to renewable energy sources. The country has successfully integrated wind power into its energy mix, with wind turbines accounting for a significant portion of its electricity generation. Denmark's commitment to renewable energy extends beyond its borders through initiatives like the Danish Climate Investment Fund, which supports projects in developing countries to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development. Moreover, Denmark actively participates in international forums and partnerships facilitated by the UN, such as the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, advocating for ambitious climate action and the adoption of sustainable energy practices on a global scale. By leveraging its expertise in renewable energy technologies and policy frameworks, Denmark contributes to the dissemination of best practices and the capacity building necessary for countries to transition to sustainable energy systems.

The Kingdom of Denmark supports two solutions. First, increased cooperation between the UNDP and other subsidiary committees to identify sources of funding and technology sharing in the private sector as well as public investors. Denmark looks to financial institutions such the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, international banks to aid us in this regard through low interest loans. Denmark also proposes increased dialogue as to give fellow Member States the opportunity to export their own ideas and successes to developing Member States in need of vetting of technologies or proven solutions. This delegation proposes that we work with the United Nations Technology Bank, which has had success in spreading technology of tools needed to fight COVID-19, to establish a program which they connect expert manufacturers with less experienced or advanced manufactured in developing countries. Through these methods, the costs of transitioning into a net carbon-neutral state are lessened and we take one step closer to completing our fight against climate change.