

I would like first of all to align myself with the EU statement, and make a few remarks - basically only three points.

The Danish Government very much welcomes this first Annual Ministerial Review and during the AMR and during the Development Cooperation Forum tomorrow we have the opportunity to reflect on how far we have come, and what lessons we draw from

the progress we have made since 2005. We have reached a significant milestone, where we all have to face the basic question: Whether the cup is half full or half empty?

On the positive side we can see that the progress we have made this year focuses primarily on eradicating poverty and hunger (MDG1). The good news is that all major regions are on the track to reducing the proportion of people living in

special efforts therefore have to be made in the years to come. We must step up our efforts as developing countries and as donor countries - and we cannot afford to leave anyone

My second point is that one important stepping stone towards the eradication of poverty, and the fulfilment of the interlinked MDGs, is the achievement of gender equality and empowering of women. This never utters has been a central progress as

proven to be a wise and sound strategy. Empower women, but her family, her children, her community and her society at large

percentage points between 1960 and 1992. This is significant. A further 0.8 percentage points per year would have doubled economic growth over the period.

So these figures speak for themselves. Not only on the appalling costs of gender

economic empowerment

economic growth. But developments have taken a wrong turn, not least in the area of reproductive health. Let me recall some alarming facts:

that

childbirth in Denmark it is 1 woman out of more than seven thousand

So, we need to ensure that the commitments by heads of government at the ICPD conference in 1994 - commitments that were reaffirmed in 2005 UN World Summit - that these commitments are translated into action.

The first step was the UN Secretary General's introduction of a new target under MDG 5 on Maternal Health in 2006. This new target is to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015. Denmark strongly welcomes this important and timely step

My third and final point is to stress the importance of climate change. The SG's report refers to the reports issued by the International Panel on Climate change, which conclude that global warming is occurring faster than we thought, and that human activity is primarily responsible. The IPCC reports furthermore make it quite clear that climate change affects the poorest countries the most. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to reiterate the points made also by the EU: That a sound strategy to ensure environmental sustainability needs to be part of a poverty focused development strategy, and that climate change will have major challenges for all of us in our endeavour to develop a equitable

post-Kyoto regime by 2009. This, therefore, will be one of the major challenges for the international community over the next 2 1/2 years. It is important that the High Level Event

guidelines and work plan that will allow us to conclude negotiations by 2009. We have high hopes that this will be a successful endeavour.

Now I finish off where I began: Whether the cup is half full or half empty?

There is no doubt that in order to achieve the MDGs we need to do more and do it faster

There is solid ground to build on - the cup is already half full - but it will take a continued

and determined effort in a number of areas, including climate change, to make sure that by 2015, the cup will not only be full, but spilling over.