



## For Recipients' Sake: Denmark-Africa Cooperation for Development

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### Abstract

With the rapid changes happening in the world, countries need to strengthen their cooperation to improve developments - Denmark is no exception. Denmark's development cooperation activities lie within the plan for the development of policy and humanitarian. With that in mind, African countries became Denmark's top priority in embracing shared responsibilities. In executing the work, Denmark established development cooperation with many stakeholders and local & international partners. Denmark has intensified its efforts in helping countries dealing with crises and conflicts, as these efforts are the way to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), mainly Goal 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). In achieving the goals, the Danish Government reinforces its efforts in specifically fragile countries; Ethiopia, Mali, and Somalia. Each of the states has three problems in common: security, human rights, and economic growth.



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### A. INTRODUCTION

The Right to a Better Life is a strategy done by Denmark to participate in development cooperation (Mensa-Bonsu & Andersen, 2010). Denmark believes that poverty must be fought with human rights and economic growth, thus securing all people the right to food and all children the right to go to school is essential. No country is isolated from global developments, new global progress, and economic development (Ma, Cai, Cai & Dong, 2019; Cao, Zhang, Liu, Huang & Huang, 2019). With that in mind, Denmark's development cooperation is a tangible and visible contribution to the joint responsibility for the world's development. The development of strategic collaboration and plan is integrated fully into Denmark's foreign and security policy.

Furthermore, with the Sustainable Development Goals as a starting point, Denmark will shape its development cooperation in a way that will help free the individual and their potential in the developing countries (Ravn Boess, Lyhne, Davila, Jantzen, Kjellerup & Kørnøv, 2021). In this context, Denmark has put the

continent of Africa to become their top priorities for development cooperation, thus making Denmark full committed to improving the region's stability and security. Besides, in the Finance Bill, the Danish Government proposes a series of initiatives and approach to job creation and sustainable growth in African countries.

## **B. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Understanding Denmark's Development Cooperation Activities**

Denmark's development cooperation activities have undergone an immensely strong and fundamental shift in recent years as it is adapting to a rapidly changing world. In this world, war, climate change, and poverty in countries and regions such as Syria, Afghanistan, and Africa are causing a direct impact as refugees, and irregular migrants begin to search a better life in Europe, including Denmark (Lundsgaarde, 2019). However, this rapidly changing world gives such endless opportunity to new progress and cooperation in the form of alliances and partnerships – such as green energy, equal opportunity in work and education, democracy, as well as market-driven economic growth. According to the United Nations, in 2015, 736 million people lived below the international poverty line of US\$ 1.90 a day, which most of them belong to two regions: Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (United Nations Global Issues, 2020). Having known the facts, countries must enhance the unending collaboration to support the UN's Sustainable Development Goals for 2030: the eradication of extreme poverty and a world of sustainable growth and development – and put it into realization.

The activities of Denmark's development cooperation lie within the plan for the development of policy and humanitarian. The Government's 2019 Finance Bill continues the efforts to target and strengthen Denmark's development cooperation. Furthermore, it also reflects the nation's commitment to embracing a sense of shared responsibilities in helping those in need – creating a better and safer place, for Denmark and the rest of the world (The Danish Government, 2012).

Within the 2019 Finance Bill, the goal of the Government is to ensure that everyone has the freedom to create the future they want; how they want it and when they want it. The Government believes that nobody should have to put their life on the line when chasing the dreams, hoping for a better future. Besides, Denmark's development policy which was established in the 2019 Finance Bill target five areas, such as conflict-affected regions, Africa, green profile, women/equal opportunity, and multilateralism.

### **Denmark Cooperation with Africa**

Nearly half of the world's poorest people live in sub-Saharan Africa, making the region is in the cry for help and development assistance. Many of the African countries that Denmark has cooperated with experienced growth and progress;

however, the population growth adds more pressures to the advancement in development.

To help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and create better and equal opportunities for the youth of Africa, Denmark has intensified its efforts in assisting the countries dealing with crises and conflicts. These efforts are the way to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

In executing the work, Denmark established development cooperation with The African Development Bank (AfDB). The AfDB extends loans and grants to African countries to promote sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty in Africa (Anonim, 2020). To date, the Bank stands out as a preferred partner for governments and private sectors in Africa due to the Bank's strong leadership and close relationship with African leaders.

Denmark's relationship with the AfDB was reinforced by former President Kaberuka's engagement in the Africa Commission (2008-2011) which confirmed shared values, in particular related to the importance of green and inclusive private sector-led growth for political and economic growth in Africa. Denmark supports the AfDB namely for various reasons, such as: (1) Its strategies share the Danish development policy's focus on poverty reduction, sustainable growth, and private sector involvement; (2) It is a significant and trusted financial actor in Africa; (3) It addresses long term development needs crucial for the prevention of migration; (4) It is an institution continuously striving for efficiency and effectiveness (Anonim(2), 2020).

In achieving the goals, the Danish Government will reinforce and strengthen its efforts in priority countries in Africa – specifically countries that are fragile or in a delicate situation. In the 2019 Finance Bill, Denmark has allocated DKK 400m more than planned in the 2018 Finance Bill for 2019 for Ethiopia, Mali, and Somalia, and a total of DKK 1.72 bn. for bilateral country programs in Africa. Furthermore, with a lot of Danish priority countries have a young population, thus making Denmark government to prioritize the youth with allocating DKK 10m to ensure a focus on young people throughout Denmark's development cooperation activities, and to kick-start pilot initiatives for youth involvement and empowerment, particularly in Africa.

The reason behind youth empowerment is because Denmark believes that young people have the right to be heard, participate in and have an influence on local, national, and global development (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, 2020). Also, Denmark recognizes Youth as a vital and positive resource in the story, and Youth features prominently in the Danish strategy development cooperation 2030.

### Denmark's Strategy in Ethiopia

Denmark has a long tradition of development cooperation and assistance, including humanitarian efforts. The Danish Country Program for Ethiopia 2018-2022 lies its outset in the Danish Country Policy Paper for Ethiopia. The objective of the programs set by the Danish government is mainly to contribute to inclusive, sustainable growth and improved governance in Ethiopia by supporting the vision of building a Climate Resilient Green Economy and reaching lower-middle-income status by 2025. In particular, the Country Program consists of four thematic programs, such as (1) Agricultural Commercialization Clusters; (2) Coherence between humanitarian responses and development cooperation; (3) Climate-resilient forest livelihoods; and (4) Governance and human rights. Besides, following the existing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), The Country Program supports Ethiopia on SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 5 (gender equality and women's empowerment), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) (Danish Country Program for Ethiopia 2018-2022).

Denmark possesses such strong interest in supporting Ethiopia's development efforts, as Denmark believes that promoting development in Ethiopia through sustainable and inclusive growth has a massive potential to improve the lives of millions. While at the same time reducing adverse effects from climate change and limiting irregular migration flows. Furthermore, Ethiopia is characterized by armed conflicts, a rapidly growing refugee population, and radicalization.

Within all that's happening, promoting stability and sustainability of Ethiopia is crucial as it will turn positive impacts on Europe and Denmark. Moreover, supporting the reform efforts of the Ethiopian government in opening vital economic sectors could unlock the country's massive potential for Danish companies and Danish expertise in handling many crises, namely sustainable energy.

**First, Thematic Program I: Agricultural Commercialization Clusters (ACC).** Most of Ethiopia's population lives in rural areas, thus making agriculture as their dominant sector for the country's economy, representing over 37% of GDP, as well as being the primary source of income for more than 79% of Ethiopians, and constituting 84% of exports (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2011). However, Ethiopia is not realizing its full agricultural potential, as the sector is dominated by smallholder subsistence-oriented farming. The Government, together with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), identified the bottlenecks that causing Ethiopia from using its potential and attaining growth. They put it into The Agricultural Transformation Agenda – as well as establishing Agricultural Transformation Council that is led by the Prime Minister and Regional presidents at national to the regional level to observe the implementation of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda closely. Besides, they also establish the Agricultural

Transformation Agency (ATA) as a time-bound organization to catalyze and drive accelerated agricultural transformation. The ATA works with various partners and cooperates in providing solutions, assistance, capacity building as well as coordinating, manage and lead projects of specific deliverables (Anonim(3), 2020).

The Agricultural Commercialization Clusters (ACC) is a multi-stakeholder initiative including government, private sector, CSOs as well as other public, private and actors in the development industry along the selected nine key commodity value chain (wheat, maize, malt barley, sesame, tomato, onion, banana, mango, and avocado). This initiative was introduced to promote favorable policies and investments to catalyze agricultural commercialization and growth and act as Centers of Excellence (CoE) (Anonim(4), 2020). In the implementation, ACC has a geographically focused approach currently implemented in four regions; Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Regions (SNNPR), grouped in 24 clusters.

In conducting the operation, ATA and ACC have arranged the relation with the Danish Embassy through regular bilateral meetings. As part of the support, the Danish Embassy has accepted the role of the front-runner in the arrangement. It works closely with ATA on setting up a structural approach, hence making Denmark the initial donor. In terms of the management structure for the joint donor funding, the Government will transfer Danish funding as an advance payment to a designated ATA account for the joint financing. In contrast, Denmark will transfer funds to ATA twice a year. For the monitoring, the Danish Embassy will contract a monitoring consultant who will assist the Embassy in overseeing the implementation, make a technical assessment and prepare for the semi-annual meetings (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, 2020).

**Second, Thematic Program 2: Coherence Between Humanitarian Responses and Development Cooperation.** For decades, Ethiopia has been prone to droughts and climate changes which created significant humanitarian needs for the population and causing food insecurity. Despite the challenges, Ethiopia has successfully established an open-door policy for refugees from the region's political crises and presently hosting approximately 750,000 refugees (UNHCR, 2020). At the same time, an estimated 2.6 millions of people are internally displaced due to ethnic and political fighting-making the humanitarian context too complicated. In addressing the issues, the Government of Ethiopia has launched the country's first 2018 Humanitarian Disaster and Resilience Plan (HRDP), which provides additional strategies to address prevention of and recovery from disaster, as well as a long-term approach to food insecurity. Furthermore, Ethiopia has also adopted The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), which aimed at improving the rights and services enjoyed by a refugee in the country.

In a broader perspective, the Ethiopian government's ambition to fight food insecurity and improve rights to refugees make Ethiopia a ripe case for

demonstrating tangible results. The Country Program pursue this by supporting the Productive Safe Net Program (PSNP). This program will address the structural humanitarian needs of rural populations and refugees as well as refugee-hosting communities through innovative approaches to enhance resilience (The World Bank, 2020). Since 2005, PSNP has become Ethiopia's primary driver for addressing chronic food insecurity. The program is designed as a large-scale and long-term coordinated effort to fight food insecurity throughout the country. It is a 'cash or food for work' program, where low households receive small payments in exchange for working on projects in their community.

For years, Denmark has been supporting the refugees that come to Ethiopia through its general humanitarian assistance. Still, to further support the Ethiopian government's commitment to providing sustainability, Denmark decided to add an engagement within CRRF objectives. However, taking the size and budget of the program into consideration, Denmark will remain a small partner (UNHCR, 2017). But by engaging through the World Bank's multi-donor trust fund for development, Denmark will continue to be able to promote Danish priorities such as the better linkage between humanitarian aid and development, climate change, gender and sexual and reproductive health rights. Besides, supporting refugees, supporting governments in hosting large refugee populations as well as easing the pressure on refugee-hosting communities are all core interest of Denmark, as previously stated in Denmark's humanitarian and development strategy, and Denmark's Foreign and Security Policy Strategy (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, 2017).

**Third, Thematic Program 3: Climate Resilient Forest Livelihoods.** The focus of this thematic program is to promote climate-resilient livelihoods within and around forest areas, as well as to pursue sustainable management of forest resources in Kaffa Biosphere Reserve through the promotion of participatory forest management. In many years, Ethiopia has faced significant challenges related to climate change; experiencing more than 15 drought events in the last 50 years, floods, increased temperature, and erratic rainfall (Simane, 2016). Nonetheless, Ethiopia's ability to manage drought has improved dramatically over the past decade, and the resilience of the poorest has been enhanced through programs which promote sustainable natural resources management, such as PSNP and GATE. However, several challenges remain, and technical support is needed.

The Kaffa Biosphere Reserve which located in SNNPR is one of the few remains of old-growth montane rainforest in Ethiopia. It is a biodiversity hotspot and one of the few places where wild coffee still grows, and thus crucial for maintaining the genetic diversity of this global commodity. This program is closely linked with the regional REDD+ program in SNNPR. Furthermore, in 2011, the Ethiopian Government launched an ambitious plan to become a carbon-neutral middle-income country by 2025, the "Climate Resilient Green Economy" (CRGE)

Strategy. The strategy sets its vision on carbon-neutral growth relies on a transformation of productive sectors- hence, the central elements of CRGE are participatory forest management, reforestation, land rehabilitation and watershed management (The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 2020).

One of the critical foundations for the Danish partnership with Ethiopia is the common interest in green growth and climate change-related issues – can be seen through collaboration in international climate negotiations & climate initiatives. The Danish Embassy is also the one who provides support for capacity building and technical assistance through financing the thematic programs. The Ministry of Environment will be responsible for providing additional technical service through its new Forest Sector Transformation Unit (FSTU). The Danish Embassy will sign an agreement with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Environment, and the SNNPR Regional Government. Also, the steering committee will oversee the implementation of the program.

**Fourth, Thematic Program 4: Governance and Human Rights.** The Thematic Programs (TP) has the overall objective of contributing to the further development of democratic Government and human rights in Ethiopia through enhancing the capacity of the public sector, human rights protection and public participation. The TP enhances Danish support in promoting gender equality and civil rights to contribute to participatory Government – and the same thing goes with Ethiopia. Governance and human rights engagements reflect essential priorities for the country. The reforms proposed by PM Abiye, and the Government’s willingness to take a broader and more participatory approach to governance has shown a change in attitudes and support to UNDP’s Governance and Democratic Participation Program (GDPP) (Anonim(5), 2020).

In 2018, Ethiopia experienced a setback in political and democratic participation as the new Prime Minister facing the need to reconcile demands for faster and more extensive reform of the political system which will determine Ethiopia’s future. Many positive steps have been taken, including reshuffling ministers, firing obstructive civil servants, and reaching out to Eritrea and Somalia. Furthermore, efforts have already been taken to promote freedom of speech, as well as lifting the bans on the website and other media (Anonim(5), 2020). Concerning gender equality, Ethiopia has useful legal frameworks in place, a constitutional guarantee of gender equality and a high proportion of women in political life – women comprise 38.8% of the House of People’s Representatives and 32.6% of the House of Federation. Moreover, other challenges include foreign policy shortages, growing inequality, a lack of jobs for graduates, significant environmental damage, as well as the hunger change that could quickly lead to disillusionment (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2018).

In achieving the program, Denmark supports the governance, gender, and human rights as it is entirely in line with the Danish development strategy, and

with the Danish Country Policy for Ethiopia. In the area of gender and human rights, Denmark provides support through GDPP to the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, and through UN Women in the area of preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV). In regards to the technical assistance, the UNDP office in Addis Ababa will manage the Danish support alongside other contributors using a mix of direct and national implementation arrangement, resulted in arranging the possible help from the Danish Institute for Human Rights. Moreover, Denmark will be represented by the Royal Danish Embassy (RDE) in Addis Ababa, where the Embassy will participate as an equal partner in the joint donor arrangements that have previously been established. The Danish Embassy will also encourage close coordination of donor approaches and dialogue with UNDP and other partners to ensure the implementation and achieving successful outcomes.

### **Denmark's Strategy in Mali**

Mali and the Sahel region have become increasingly strategic importance to Danish and European foreign policy and security interest. Mali appeared as the epicenter for the current crisis in the Sahel in 2011. At that time, a Tuareg uprising spearheaded violent Islamist groups taking control of the northern part of the country. Moreover, the crisis in Mali has been met with an unprecedented international response; military, politically, and development assistance (Felter & Bussemaker, 2020). It is Denmark's utmost strategic interest to continue contributing to the stabilization and development of Mali through a broad-based and comprehensive engagement. Mainly, Denmark- Mali partnership is based on three main strategies; (1) peaceful co-existence, stability and security, (2) democratic and inclusive governance, and (3) inclusive and sustainable economic growth (Denmark-Mali Country Policy Paper 2016-2021). The overall vision Denmark has for Mali is that the people of Mali would enjoy sustainable peace and development, supported by an inclusive and legitimate state with respect for human rights. To achieve this vision, Denmark will expand and consolidate its comprehensive partnership with Mali, making it in line with Malian policy and development documents, including the Algiers Peace Agreement, Danish policy related to addressing poverty and fragility, economic growth and irregular migration (Anonim(6), 2020). Furthermore, Denmark will provide strategic direction during the pursuit of overall vision through an integrated stabilization approach in fragile and conflicted areas. In terms of human rights, Denmark will assert political influence by working with like-minded partners, thus applying the Human Rights-based approach, using non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, and transparency and accountability (UNICEF, 2016).

Denmark has been engaged in Mali for decades when Mali became a priority country for Danish long term development assistance in 2006. Denmark's efforts are part of a comprehensive international engagement in Mali. A key partner in this



regard is the UN's Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), established in April 2013-which has the mandate to protect civilians, monitor and supervise ceasefire arrangements, and support the implementation of the peace accord between the Malian parties (Anonim(7), 2020). Another key partner is the EU which became the largest donor and provider of training to the Malian security forces – the several EU Member States are intensely engaged in Mali, mainly France. However, Denmark will seek to influence multilateral partners, such as the EU, World Bank and other UN bodies and NGOs.

**First, Peaceful Co-existence, Stability and Security.** Mali's stability and its ability to protect its people from conflicts are vital, as it is the first condition for efforts to reduce poverty, strengthen democratic transition, and pave the way for sustainable economic growth. The objective will support the implementation of SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), and Goal 16 (Promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies) of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. To achieve the objective, Denmark will 1). Work for maintaining national, regional and international commitment to Mali's peace process through active diplomacy, in particular by cooperating closely with the EU, but also the UN and other key international partners; 2). Use all instruments to assist MINUSMA in playing its key role in the peace and stabilization process; 3). Strengthen the engagement in key areas for stabilization in Mali and the Sahel, such as improved security, countering violent extremism, conflict prevention and resolution, reconciliation, and the promotion of human rights; 4). Work actively to address challenges related to irregular migration and human trafficking through improved security in the border regions; and 5). Alleviate humanitarian needs and contribute to improved protection of those affected by conflicts and crises, as well as focus on strengthening the resilience of vulnerable groups (Denmark-Mali Country Policy Paper 2016-2021). Furthermore, Denmark will cooperate with like-minded partners to keep Mali high on the international agenda and in furthering the peace process. Denmark will also continue to prioritize addressing violence against women and support women's role in building peace.

**Second, Democratic and Inclusive Governance.** Denmark believes that a legitimate state must be based on democratic values, transparency, the rule of law and inclusion. Democratic governance holds the promise of containing Mali's internal conflict potential, managing fragmentation tendencies and neutralizing socio-economic conflicts of interest. The foundation for a more stable Mali lies in Denmark's strategic objective, which aimed to increase the number of mechanisms through Malian participation in governance and hold their local and national government to account. In achieving the objective, Denmark will 1). Promote inclusive political processes and legitimate governance as well as greater social cohesion, with particular attention to ensuring the participation of the poor and most vulnerable, including women and youth, in democratic processes; 2). Assist

the Malian government in implementing decentralization reforms, while contributing to ensure improved service delivery for the population; and 3). Contribute to strengthening the civil society and seek to actively involve local stakeholders in order to gradually create the transparency, accountability and cohesion between state and society (Denmark-Mali Country Policy Paper 2016-2021).

To strengthening democratic governance, it requires a concerted effort from Mali's government, civil society and its international development partners, including the EU, Germany and Belgium as key partners supporting Mali's decentralization process. Denmark will build on its experiences from working at National level with the government and the National Assembly to facilitate greater accountability.

**Third, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth.** Improvements in peace and security will only be well-maintained if followed by inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The fact that reintegration of internally and externally displaced people in the Malian economy is crucial, thus making Denmark the need to provide strategic objective in promoting inclusive & sustainable economic growth. This objective reflects Mali's need for a more extended period of inclusive and sustained economic growth to effectively address challenges, such as rising of unemployment, growing socio-political discontent, and the financing of the national development plan.

To achieve the objective, Denmark will 1). Support Mali in fighting poverty and creating sustainable development through green growth, increased income and employment, especially for the youth and women; 2). Promote Mali's integration into the regional and global market as well as an enabling environment for the private sector and Foreign Direct Investments; 3). Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job-creation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises; 4). Contribute to migrating irregular migration through economic growth, including job creation; and 5). Respond to the demand for support and promotion of Danish companies' economic relations with Mali (Denmark-Mali Country Policy Paper 2016-2021). Despite challenging market conditions, essential opportunities exist, and Danish companies may show a greater interest in investing and working in Mali in the upcoming future. Furthermore, based on the demand, Denmark will promote and support activities of Danish companies in Mali as well as Danish-Malian economic diplomacy and development cooperation activities.

### Denmark's Strategy in Somalia

Technically speaking, Somalia is located in Europe, thus making it Denmark's sphere of interest. After the state collapsed in 1991 and decades of conflict, Somalia has moved slowly and progressed backwards (Momodu, 2016).

While the government was taking actions to recover and improve the country's development, it cannot resolve the extensive challenges alone and without support. Hence, Denmark established several strategic interests in Somalia – which focused on global challenges, such as refugee and irregular migration flows, countering of violent extremism, as well as marine security in the central maritime transport corridor between Europe and Asia. Accordingly, the vision and objectives of Danish engagement in Somalia are based on an interest- oriented, integrated and focus foreign, security and development policy (Denmark-Somalia Country Policy Paper 2018-2023).

Over several years, Somalia has been recognized as a priority country for Danish development policy, as it belongs to the group of low, fragile states. The Danish engagement in and with Somalia implements the vision of Denmark's Strategy for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Action, as well as supporting all four focus areas of the strategy. For the period 2018-2023, Denmark will work to promote strategic objectives to achieve SDGs through; (1) Promote stability and security, state-building and human rights, (2) Strengthen resilience and support Somalia's handling of internally displaced persons and returned citizens, and (3) Combat poverty through inclusive growth and sustainable jobs (Denmark-Somalia Country Policy Paper 2018-2023).

The Danish engagement in Somalia also concerns the Somali diaspora in Denmark, as around 21.000 Somali immigrants reside in Denmark. From this, Denmark acknowledges that its initiatives in Somalia will build a valuable experience and will result in a good outcome for the sake of partnership between Denmark and Somalia. To a broader extent, the policy underlying the cooperation activities will be characterized by an adjusted focus based on the development in Danish political priorities and the Somali reality. To name a few, addressing the root causes of migration, providing the solution to Somalia's displacement crises, and upholding human rights through alliances and partnerships are the initiatives that Denmark provides for Somalia.

**First, Promote Stability and Security, State-building, and Human Rights.** In the context of human rights and stability, Somalia faces complex and interdependent challenges-resulted from violent extremism and extensive clan conflicts (United Nations Somalia, 2020). The objective of Denmark's support for state-building is to strengthen the development of Somalia to become a legitimate, open and inclusive state that build on trust and ownership of the people. Denmark will promote state-building, where it has the most direct importance to the Somali population.

The security situation in Somalia is closely linked to the political process of creating a functioning federal system and a new constitution. However, state-building alone will not guarantee the stability, thus making AMISOM (African Union Mission in Somalia) to become the guardian of Somalia's security. Under the

UN Security Council Resolution 2372 (2017), AMISOM's key role is to hand over security responsibility to Somalia. To support the process, Denmark will support AMISOM through military training and stabilization, as well as contribute to the capacity of regional institutions (Brief History, 2020). Furthermore, Denmark's effort to counter violent extremism will be made by supporting the rehabilitation al-Shabab defectors, combating terrorism finance, as well as supporting initiatives to weaken the attractiveness and impacts of al-Shabab.

This is also becoming Denmark's own security focus as it could impact neighboring countries, including Denmark. Besides, Denmark also contributes to prevent and combat piracy and organized crime on land and at sea through stabilization efforts to develop the local and regional capacity to exercise authority, as well as through support for international anti-piracy efforts. Denmark will support the agenda of human rights by promoting the Somali authorities' role in protecting civilians, including the most vulnerable groups – children and young people influenced by conflict and gender-based violence.

**Second, Strengthen Resilience and Support Somalia's Handling of Internally-displaced Persons and Returned Citizens.** For decades, the international community face a structural challenge to provide solutions to the millions of internally-displaced persons and Somalia is no exception. As of 2019, conflict and violence triggered 188.000 new displacements in Somalia, mainly in the south-east where al-Shabab has its stronghold (Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, 2020). Furthermore, disasters triggered 479.000 new displacements, and in the first half of 2020, there were 189.000 new displacements in the country. Therefore, looking at the figures, Denmark has a clear interest in promoting more long-term resilience and inclusive economic development to create reasonable living conditions in the future, as well as reducing Somalia's extreme dependency towards emergency assistance. To do so, Denmark's humanitarian assistance on Somalia will include a life-saving emergency aid. With emergency aid, Denmark support for the most vulnerable people as well as job creation, and conflict resolution. Furthermore, Denmark will support resilience among internally displaced persons and their host communities, contribute to preventing secondary displacements and future complications.

Besides, the cooperation commitment between Denmark and Somali authorities relate to the global and regional implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), aimed at long-term solutions for Somali refugees. Over the coming years, the forced return of Somalis is a sensitive political issue in Somalia. Still, Denmark will strengthen the dialogue in this area by supporting the Somali authorities' capacity to meet their obligations to receive their citizens. This will contribute in Somalia's development positively (Denmark-Somalia Country Policy Paper 2018-2023).

### **Third, Combat Poverty Through Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Jobs.**

Somalia is among the world's poorest countries, in which more than half of the population lives below the international poverty line US\$ 1.90. At the same time, Somalia's population is young, with more than 70 percent below 30 years of age (UNFPA Somalia, 2015). Assuming that the youth is provided with the ability to create a meaningful life, the figures become a strength. However, conflict, poverty, and unemployment can also create frustration, thus making Somalia a priority for Denmark's international cooperation development agenda. Even if there are massive challenges, the emergence of real platforms for inclusive growth and decent jobs can create a more positive future for the Somali population. In this context, Denmark will contribute to poverty reduction and inclusive economic development by supporting framework for business doing, including regulation, infrastructure and market access, as well as through substantial investments in small and medium-sized businesses. To a broader extent, these efforts will be made by youth on some of the region's highly prioritized sectors, such as cattle farming and fishery (Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN Somalia, 2020).

### **C. CONCLUSION**

It is the Government's goal that Denmark takes responsibility for the world and commit to participating in strong, binding international cooperation. However, global collaboration has undergone massive pressure in recent years related to global crises, such as climate, migration and displacement. The situations in the fragile countries and regions are complex, deep and long-out. Therefore, it is Denmark's top priority to engage in cooperation activities to make the world a better place. Through Denmark development cooperation in Africa, the country has shown its utmost respect for human rights and equality. Denmark cooperation with authorities and local communities as well as partners, will ensure the sustainable growth of economy, education and job creation. Furthermore, it is through the development cooperation that Denmark can contribute to promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and providing a comprehensive international approach for the international community. Besides, through its humanitarian action, Denmark able to contribute to the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to victims of war in conflict-affected areas. This action proves Denmark's strong advocacy for international humanitarian law and human rights.

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