



National Statement at COP18 from Martin Lidegaard, Danish Minister for Climate, Energy and Building

Intro

This summer I flew over the ice sheet with my
Greenlandic colleague.

Stunned by the beauty and grandeur of the sweating
glaciers and blinding whiteness of the ice cap.

We were headed for the monitoring station
measuring the melting ice.

But when we arrived confusion broke out.
There was nothing there - no monitoring station -
nothing.

Standing there the truth became terribly clear to us.

The monitoring station had dropped to the ground
because the ice plates keeping it upright had shrunk.

In fact more than six meters in just one season.



What does that tell us?

It tells us, that we're heading in the wrong direction.
And we're moving fast.

More specifically we are headed towards a 3-4
degrees rise in global temperatures.

This will not only impact the lives of our grand
children.

It will affect us and our children as well.

Indeed: Each day brings further evidence that the
way we use energy and misuse the planets resources
erodes our economies and threatens our planet.

By 2030 this planet will need 30% more water,
45% more energy and 50% more food.

We are creating not just an environmental time-
bomb, but also a very serious threat to the global
economy.

What we need is new policies for energy, food and
land use.

Policies based on efficiency, renewables and green
tech that will sustain economic growth, create jobs
and curb climate change.

So how do we go about that?

Well, first of all we begin at home.



We start by involving our local communities, our businesses and our neighboring countries in the effort to build a low carbon economy.

We work to capture opportunities right in front of us such as enhanced energy efficiency and fossil fuels subsidies reform.

In Denmark we plan to limit our CO₂ emissions by 40 % in 2020 compared to 1990-levels
In Greenland 70 % of the national electricity supply now comes from renewable energy.

Throughout the years,
we have shown that investing in renewables and energy efficiency goes hand in hand with economic growth.

And that brings me to my second point:
That we must not forget climate finance.

Today, I am pleased to announce that in 2013 Denmark will upscale its climate finance for developing countries compared to the fast start period amounting to 500 mio. DKK or close to 100 mio.USD.

I strongly encourage other developed countries to do the same.
To take responsibility and make firm commitments here in Doha.



Developed countries must strive to scale up climate finance towards 2020

– and we must mobilize private finance, which will be a cornerstone in this endeavor.

At the same time, climate finance must be met by corresponding and transparent mitigation actions, including NAMAs.

In that respect my government

– and I personally – sincerely appreciate the constructive dialogue and collaboration we have with progressive developing countries.

It is of paramount importance that we close the emissions gap and ensure that global emissions peak at the latest in 2020.

To this end, the mandated review of our mitigation efforts is essential.

The review is our check against science. It should be carried out in a focused and well structured manner - and finalized in 2014 - well before COP21 - to inform us on progress made.

We welcome Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's plan to engage Heads of State and Government in the negotiations going forward – and highly appreciate the Secretary General's leadership in this process.



Outro

Returning to my point of departure:

The changes in the Arctic are both evidence of what once was and what is yet to come.

But even if the Arctic population are walking barometers of climate change, the Arctic isn't the only place where climate change is rapidly altering living conditions.

That's why our efforts must be stern, steady and steadfast.

And that's my final point:

That The UNFCCC is the only global framework we have

– and as such an important platform for change.

But we must begin at home, keeping our own responsibility in mind,
our thoughts clear and our hearts open.

Thank you.