

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement made by the Foreign Minister of Denmark

International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn

5 December 2011

Subject of statement: The Three C Concept: Continuation, Commitment and Contribution.

Excellences, [President Karzai], Foreign Minister Rassoul, Foreign Minister Westerwelle, Secretary General, Ministers, colleagues;

I just returned from a visit to Afghanistan and I was left with a **positive impression**. The security situation is **still challenging** – and we **do need to be realistic** – but there is also lots of optimism, and many concrete results have been achieved. **Afghanistan has made significant gains despite difficult circumstances**.

Now, it is **our common obligation to protect and build on the progress made**. This requires what I call **the 3 C Concept**: C for “**Continue**”, “**Commit**” and “**Contribute**”:

C for “Continue”: The **peace and reconciliation process must continue** – **in spite of the recent setbacks**. Lasting peace and stabilisation in Afghanistan can only be realised with an **inclusive political solution**.

C for “Commit”: On the one hand, the **Afghan Government must commit to improved governance and protection of human rights**,

including women's rights. On the other hand, the **international community must commit to significant long-term support.**

We have all invested massively in Afghanistan - financially, politically and with human lives. And **we must remain committed to this investment.** Both in terms of international security and our obligation to fight poverty. Therefore, we **must all deliver a substantial, continued effort, up till and after 2014.** Let me here underline that key **international actors have a clear obligation** to support Afghanistan in the long run. It is **crucial that the UN plays a significant role in Afghanistan – at both the national and subnational level.** I am also **pleased that the EU stands ready** to form a long term partnership with Afghanistan.

And finally C for “Contribute”: Denmark remains fully committed to contribute. First of all, we will continue our **significant development assistance** – Afghanistan is the second largest recipient of Danish development assistance in the world. In addition to this, we are **also ready to support the Afghan National Security Forces beyond 2014. In terms of training. And in terms of funding.** Thank you.