

**GPE Pledging Session, 26 June 2014**

**Statement by Minister for Trade and Development**

**Mogens Jensen**

Thank you Madam Chair,

Danish development cooperation aims to reduce poverty and promote human rights. Quality education for all is a basic human right and one of the best investments in combatting poverty.

Education is the key to development both at the individual and societal level. Education is vital for the creation of more equal, peaceful and stable societies. It enables citizens to shape their lives and participate actively in the development of their societies. And an educated work force is vital for sustainable economic development.

Support to quality education is a key priority in Danish development cooperation. Our own national experience provides a strong case for our support at the global level and where the needs are greatest.

Providing education is primarily a national issue. Denmark recognises the efforts of many countries and I am encouraged by the strong presence today of development partners and applaud their strong financial pledges and commitment to education. This confirms that we are on the right path and that our support, both technical and financial, goes hand in hand with increased national efforts in strong partnerships.

Denmark provides 0,83 % of our GDP as development assistance. An increasing share goes to support quality education mainly through multilateral partners. Strong partnerships are the best and most efficient way to reach our common goals for quality education to all children.

The Global Partnership for Education is an excellent example of just that – based on joint strategies and a common vision focussed on providing free and good quality education for all children.

Denmark's contributions to GPE has increased significantly over the past years and brings us to an annual level of 300 million DKK corresponding to approximately USD 55 million. Due to the positive development of the GPE and because we all have to work harder to secure quality education for the millions of children still without access I have decided to increase Danish support to the GPE-fund further to a total of 400 million DKK corresponding to USD 73 million in 2015 and expect to remain at that level of annual funding over the coming years. As always, these figures still depend on final approval by Parliament of the Danish annual finance bills.

We owe it to the millions of children and youth still left behind to offer them this opportunity –it will change their lives and it will change the world to a more sustainable and peaceful place.

Thank you.