

## Denmark's pledge

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Martin Bille Hermann, State Secretary for Development Policy  
Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Education is key to achieving all the sustainable development goals. Without education, we will simply not meet our common global goals.

The Global Partnership for Education is essential in this regard. I would like to thank the governments of Senegal and France, as well as the GPE secretariat, for preparing this important replenishment conference today.

Denmark is a strong supporter of GPE, and we have been so since its inception.

Today, I am very happy to announce that Denmark will significantly increase its support to GPE in the coming years. Our commitment will increase to 300 million Danish Kroner annually in 2018-21. This is almost a 50 percent increase in our contributions, compared to last year. For the period in total, the Danish pledge sums up to more than 200 mill. USD.

We do this, because GPE's work is extremely important and a significant contribution in order to reach the SDGs. Education is one of the most important enablers to ensure girl's and women's' sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Going forward, we would like to engage more proactively in ensuring that girls have access to quality education, especially in conflict affected areas, where they are most vulnerable. Our hope is that GPE is ready to proactively work even stronger on this agenda.

We encourage all stakeholders to join us in strengthening our efforts for education on a global scale.

I thank you for your attention.