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UPHOLDING DENMARK'S LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Recommendations for Denmark's
Development Policy Strategy

Upholding Denmark's leadership on climate adaptation

Through its strong commitment to climate adaptation, Denmark has played a pivotal role in driving solutions that empower vulnerable communities to withstand the escalating impacts of climate change. Its expertise, financial support, and strategic initiatives have been instrumental in enhancing global adaptation efforts, ensuring that the most climate-affected regions can develop sustainable, long-term resilience strategies.

A key testament to Denmark's leadership is its deep engagement with the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), where it has been a driving force in elevating this critical institution's role in the adaptation landscape. Denmark's unwavering commitment has been particularly vital in Africa, where the need for adaptation is most urgent. By championing resilience-building efforts, Denmark continues to shape global adaptation strategies, reinforcing its position as a key actor in the fight against climate vulnerabilities.

Denmark's new Strategy for Development Cooperation is being formulated at a time of escalating global climate challenges and pressure on international development cooperation. Currently Denmark is at the forefront of climate action however, maintaining and strengthening these efforts in times of geopolitical uncertainty requires a strong focus on climate adaptation, locally led solutions, and multistakeholder cooperation.

Specifically, we believe the strategy should reflect an ambition to:

- **Maintain and strengthen climate adaptation focus.** We strongly urge Denmark to maintain its current focus on adaptation, including the commitment to allocate 60% of climate finance for adaptation. This commitment is crucial as the world faces increasing climate-related challenges, particularly in vulnerable regions like Sahel and Horn of Africa. The importance of a focus on adaptation is also relevant in a geopolitical and diplomatic context, as adaptation is a political priority for many countries in the global south.
- **Integrating adaptation across development and humanitarian efforts.** To maximize the impact of Denmark's development cooperation, we recommend mainstreaming adaptation considerations into all relevant development and humanitarian projects. This approach will reduce the risk of investments and their effects being lost due to climate-related hazards. By mainstreaming climate



change adaptation into development efforts, Denmark can ensure more resilient and sustainable outcomes across its entire portfolio.

- **Emphasizing localization and locally led adaptation initiatives.** We strongly advocate for a heightened focus on localization and locally led adaptation (LLA) initiatives. LLA can leverage the enormous potential and creativity of communities to develop and implement effective adaptation solutions. By shifting power to local stakeholders and providing them with necessary resources and agency, Denmark can catalyze adaptation that is effective, equitable, and transparent.
- **Strengthening Adaptation's Role in Conflict Prevention and Stability**
Climate change is increasingly linked to conflict and displacement, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected regions. Adaptation must be integrated into peacebuilding efforts to address root causes of instability, such as food and water insecurity. We therefore encourage Denmark's development strategy to include adaptive peacebuilding approaches to foster stability in climate-vulnerable regions.
- **Aligning Loss and Damage Efforts with Adaptation**
We welcome Denmark's leadership on Loss and Damage and encourage continued financial support for affected communities. Addressing Loss and Damage should go hand in hand with adaptation efforts to ensure communities not only recover but also build long-term resilience to future climate impacts.
- **Fostering Multistakeholder Cooperation and Policy Influence**
Denmark's strong diplomatic role provides an opportunity to champion global adaptation action. We recommend that Denmark strengthen multistakeholder partnerships, bringing together governments, civil society, the private sector, and research institutions to co-develop effective adaptation solutions.

By integrating these recommendations, Denmark's development strategy can serve as a global model for climate-smart, resilience-driven, and inclusive development cooperation. GCA and DanChurchAid remain committed to supporting Denmark in advancing these goals through evidence-based solutions, policy engagement, and strategic partnerships.

