

Public-Private Dialogue Conference
10 March 2015 at 9.00 – 9.10

Welcome address by CEO Karsten Dybvad, DI.

Approx. 10 min.

Your Royal Highness.

Ministers. Your excellences. Dear friends.

[Introduction]

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to the heart of Copenhagen and to the headquarters of the Confederation of Danish Industry.

Together with the World Bank and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we have done our best to provide you with good conditions for this conference and workshop on Public Private Dialogue.

Your participation today confirms to me that the subject for this conference is high on the international development agenda. An agenda which aims at

Securing growth.

Creating decent jobs.

Protecting the environment.

And respecting human rights.

These are core values for the Danish business community.

And they reflect *our* way of doing business worldwide.

When we source components, when we distribute intermediate goods and when we manufacture final products to the end user.

Throughout the whole value chain, it is essential that companies can be sure that governments enforce their laws. And that they enforce them equally to all companies.

To make that happen, we need to work together to the benefit of societies, companies and everyone of us.

This is why we are gathered here in Copenhagen.

[Business contribution to global challenges]

Later this year, The United Nations will decide on the Sustainable Development Goals. They will replace the Millennium Goals and highlight global challenges such as climate change, unemployment and poverty.

Meeting these challenges requires that views and inputs from the business community are reflected in the final goals... Because companies are *part* of the solution when they invest, create jobs and provide technologies.

Good policy frameworks are crucial if we are to meet the global challenges.

How are we going to eliminate poverty if corruption continues to equal more than 5 pct. of global GDP with over 1 trillion US\$ paid in bribes each year?

[Job creation]

Consider also the need for jobs. Looking at Africa, around 1 million youngsters graduate every month and look for a job.

It is not an option for the public sector to hire all these young and hopeful people. Most of the jobs *must* be found in private companies.

This requires a more developed private sector and better local business environments.

But we should take note that not all business communities around the world engage in policy discussions.

In some countries, the business community is simply not organized.

In other countries, it is not the tradition to take business opinions into account.

Either way, the result is that business is often not heard when governments design policies.

This leads to reduced competitive power of the local private sector. It hampers foreign investments. The result is *less* growth, *fewer* jobs and *less* wealth.

[DI examples]

The Confederation of Danish Industry and our member companies are deeply involved in Public Private Dialogue.

It is part of our obligation to identify challenges met by companies and to find solutions in a dialogue with other - often public - stakeholders.

Let me give you two examples.

[Capacity building]

For almost 20 years, this organization has collaborated with business communities all over the world.

Together with the private sector in developing countries, we provide policy recommendations for governments. Exactly as we always do in Denmark.

As an example, we analyze the costs of certain trade barriers between Kenya and Tanzania. We show the economic benefits for both countries if they remove the barriers. And we deliver concrete recommendations to both governments.

In that way, we try to assist in qualifying the dialogue between the local private sector and governments.

Kenya Association of Manufacturers (K.A.M) is a good example of this. I am very pleased that their CEO, Betty Maina, is with us here today. Our cooperation with K.A.M. is long lasting and ongoing.

K.A.M. has proved, that it is possible to make a difference to society when a business association engages in a dialogue with the government.

[The Danish Model]

In Denmark, Public Private Dialogue is the rule rather than the exception for the business community.

My second example is the Danish system of labor market regulation, which is often called “the Danish Model”.

In Denmark, we do not have laws on minimum wage and working hours. We have collective agreements made between the employers’ organizations and the trade unions.

The idea is that the social partners, in a dialogue, should identify challenges and find solutions on the labor market. The result is a steady and flexible labor market.

Our system based on dialogue has worked for more than 100 years.

And has always been respected by the government.

This kind of dialogue does not only apply to the labor market in Denmark. The business community and other stakeholders are in general invited by politicians to contribute to the legal process.

[DI premises]

Transparency and trust are key to dialogue. This building emphasizes those values.

The most visible feature of our building is the transparent front.

We want to send a clear message of openness.

We are convinced that sustainable growth requires dialogue with politicians and authorities, with the trade unions and with civil society.

It requires dialogue between the public and private sector.

PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE.

I wish you success. Thank you.

[Introduction HRH Crown Princess Mary]

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is now a great honor for me to give the floor to Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark.