

## Women and Girls – Catalysing Action to Achieve Gender Equality

Mr. Chairperson, your Excellences, dear Delegates,

All of us around this table know the alarming fact of how the vulnerability of women and girls multiplies in situations of crisis. So let me start by giving you a story about an extraordinary woman, Tabitha Nyakong Ter. I met her in Kakuma, a refugee camp in Kenya. She was a single mother from South Sudan who cared for six children of her own. But she still had the humanitarian heart to care for two of her sister's children and one orphan when she came to the camp. She is a showcase to me that we all have a responsibility to do more. It also tells me that today we have an obligation to commit ourselves to do more to improve the lives of women and girls in humanitarian crises. We know as a fact that when you empower women and girls in humanitarian crises, we are changing families, we are changing the communities and we are changing entire societies, and therefore we must all step up. Denmark is committed in several ways:

Firstly, we will show political leadership by being an advocate for the enhancement of gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights and the fight against gender-based violence, also in humanitarian crises. This includes the right to comprehensive sexual education and the right for abortion. There are 20 million unsafe abortions a year because we are denying women and girls their right to services. So I hope that everyone who has spoken out so forcefully for the right of women also will speak out for the right of abortion.

Denmark just hosted the Women Deliver Conference – a global event focused on solutions and on the concrete actions we take to make sure that girls and women are never left out of the equation.

Secondly, Denmark will work to ensure that humanitarian funding continues to prioritise the need of women and girls. And I am pleased to announce that UNFPA will receive an additional grant in support of its activities in the Syrian Crisis.

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Generally, we are among the biggest donors to the UNFPA and UN Women, and we also contribute to the work of, among others, UNICEF, the International Planned Parenthood Federation as well as Amplify for Change.

Denmark is dedicated to ensure more efficient support leading to sustainable improvements for women and girls in need. This includes removing barriers for coherent humanitarian and development efforts in humanitarian crises. We will enter into new flexible partnership agreements with relevant organisations with dual mandates covering both humanitarian assistance and development cooperation.

Lastly, we will sign up to the initiative “Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies”. I encourage all participants to do the same. This great initiative, through our strong collective efforts, can help transform the way Gender-Based Violence is addressed in humanitarian crises.

We must show political leadership and to walk the talk. Denmark is ready to do that.

Thank you.