

# SPOTLIGHT REPORT

DENMARK'S CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING  
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
– IN THE SHADOW OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

ENGLISH SUMMARY

JUNE 2020





# PREFACE

This report is published halfway through the year 2020. A year that we can already conclude is not going to be like other years. As we entered 2020, we were facing a global climate crisis, a global nature- and biodiversity crisis, a global inequality crisis and, increasingly, a reduction in journalists and advocates' civic space. As the Corona virus spread throughout the world during the spring, it did not only cause a global health crisis, it also had several immense negative economic, social, and human rights consequences.

On the positive side, the handling of the Corona crisis shows that governments and populations can respond quickly and effectively, when faced with imminent and tangible danger. On the more negative side, the Corona crisis once again exhibits inequality in the world, where the poorest and most vulnerable groups in society are hit the hardest. It is also clear that the climate and the ecosystems of the globe may get a small 'break' from humanity's negative impact now and here, but at the same time, negotiations and action on global, green solutions is postponed, which by far outbalance the break. The world's children and young people are hit hard by the Corona crisis too, partly because of shutdowns of schools and educational institutions. Girls are particularly vulnerable and are due to the crisis to an increasing extent assaulted and forced into marriage.

A number of governments are actively using the Corona crisis to deprive people of rights and cut off political opponents from influence. Business in both Denmark and abroad is hit hard financially. At the same time, poor and vulnerable workers in corporate supply chains in the Third World are becoming even more vulnerable – many are fired from one day to another without a social safety net. They must not be forgotten. It is also clear now that healthcare systems around the world were not ready for a pandemic. The lack of contingency plans, respirators and protective equipment has been evident and has probably cost human lives.

All together, we are facing a complex picture of enormous crises. Crises, each of which contributes to worsening the other crises. Crises that we must each do our part to resolve. Our government and policy makers must seek out new ways of doing politics and the international community must stand together.

The world community and its national actors are facing several crossroads. Do we want to focus on ourselves or do we believe in international solidarity; are we waiting to act due to economic recession or are we working for a green, responsible and equitable restart of our communities; do we increase the confidence in the state by rolling back restrictions or do we maintain restrictions with resulting distrust; will we see the fight against the many aspects of inequality increased or a roll back of many years of progress?



Rasmus Stuhr Jakobsen  
Chair, Global Focus

The choices we make in Denmark and in the rest of the world today will affect us for many years to come, and it is therefore crucial that our choices are based on building back better – on rebuilding our society in a new, responsible, resilient and sustainable way. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda with the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals are a natural guideline for such choices.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda five years ago provided us with the one unified political framework needed to enable us to make the right choices; overcome crises; and create a sustainable world at the same time. With a clear principle that all citizens must be involved in sustainable development and with the 17 goals and their 169 underlying targets for the development of the world, the political agreement focus on all the necessary and crosscutting sub elements of a sustainable world, including climate, environment, health, economy, inequality, human rights, education and a number of other areas.

The purpose of this SPOTLIGHT report is to illustrate how far Denmark is from achieving the Sustainable Development Goals nationally and to what extent Denmark contributes to achieving the goals abroad. This is the third time that Global Focus and the Danish 92 Group have made this report on the progress of the Danish implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Due to the Corona crisis, we call for the contents of the report to be read as suggestions for solutions to overcome the complex crises we are facing. With this report, we and our member organizations provide recommendations for the responses of the Danish government and decision makers to the Corona crises that at the same time contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is a general recommendation, that the Danish government should make an action plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We also offer our suggestions for the content of such an action plan. At the same time, our member organizations provide more than 100 concrete recommendations on how Danish policy makers can launch initiatives to respond to the Corona crisis and its consequences; respond to the already existing crises; and ultimately contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and thereby a better world for all of us.

We hope that you will read our report with great interest and that it can help us all become more clear about what it takes for us as a country and as a world to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



Torleif Jonasson  
Chair, the Danish 92 Group

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## BACKGROUND

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This SPOTLIGHT report was prepared by member organizations from the two Danish NGO networks, Global Focus and the Danish 92 Group, in the spring of 2020, based on the networks' joint working group on implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Denmark and globally. The purpose of the report is to highlight the challenges that Denmark faces in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the fullest in Denmark while also contributing as much as possible on a global scale. In the report the authors make recommendations on how to solve the challenges of each of the 17 goals through political action.

The two network secretariats have coordinated the preparation of the report and written the overall sections: "Behind the SPOTLIGHT report", "Assessment" and "Overall recommendations". The two secretariats are therefore responsible for the content contained therein. The two networks' member organizations have formulated the texts, highlighting the specific challenges within the individual goals and underlying targets as well as made recommendations for political action. The individual authors of the

input of each goal are thus responsible for the content of it, including the recommendations for political action. Contributing member organizations have been allowed to obtain expert knowledge from outside the member constituency. Such experts are specifically mentioned – but not responsible for the content.

The report is a revision of the same report from Global Focus and the Danish 92 Group from June 2019. Thus, the assessments of the political momentum to overcome the specific challenges may be (but are not necessarily) the same if nothing has changed since 2019. The same goes for the policy recommendations for each target.

This is a shortened English version of the report, which contains a summary of all the different contributions under each target. The summary will give the reader an understanding of the Danish challenges to achieve the SDGs, and of how Denmark can become even more ambitious in its work to meet them.



# BEHIND THE SPOTLIGHT REPORT

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## READING GUIDE

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This reading guide provides an overview of the report, which is useful for understanding form and content.

### 1. AUDIENCE OF THE SPOTLIGHT REPORT: POLICY MAKERS AND ANYONE INTERESTED IN SUSTAINABILITY

This SPOTLIGHT report has been prepared as an input to policy makers and other stakeholders on challenges and recommendations. The focus of the report is particularly on being useful as an offset for action for all political decision makers – whether part of a government or an opposition

– and regardless of party color or ideology – by providing clarity of the challenges for Denmark to meet the SDGs. At the same time, the content of the report is wide enough for someone who is generally politically interested, to find knowledge about a wide variety of subjects.

### 2. ENLIGHTENING DENMARK'S CHALLENGES

Denmark to some extent outperforms many other countries in a wide range of the SDGs and targets. However, the purpose of this SPOTLIGHT report is not to measure Denmark's achievement of the SDGs relative to other

countries. The focus is to shed light on the challenges that Denmark face – separate from other countries' level and work – with achieving the SDGs in Denmark or contributing to the achievement of the goals on a global level.

### 3. THE EXPERTS' FOCUS ON SELECTED CHALLENGES

The spotlight on Denmark's challenges is divided into each individual Sustainable Development Goal and its underlying targets. Thus, we will see a positive contribution to the achievement of the individual goal if the described challenges are overcome.

The 17 SDGs and 169 targets form a holistic framework, as they are each mutually dependent. The solution to a challenge regarding one goal or underlying target can have positive or negative consequences for the achievement of other goals/targets. Therefore, the authors have focused on specific goals, while other goals relevant to the one

assessed are inserted at the bottom of each page, under the heading "Remember these goals and underlying targets too". However, no challenges have been described in relation to all 17 goals and underlying targets, as the authors have chosen to focus on selected challenges for achieving the specific goals, reflecting the expertise of the networks and their member organizations.

Thus, the authors wish to strengthen the report's integrity and professional quality, by not attempting to shed light on challenges that they have no knowledge of.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The authors have focused on challenges in relation to meeting each of the SDGs in and for Denmark. Therefore, the basis of the challenges has been assessed by the respective authors at national and/or international level, respectively:

- Challenges for achieving the SDGs in Denmark
- Challenges for making a positive Danish contribution to the global achievement of the SDGs

The assessment is summarized in relation to three evaluation parameters.

### THE THREE PARAMETERS ARE:

#### 1. "Policy plan adopted":

Has a plan, strategy or policy for the goal or underlying targets, that can help to solve the challenge, been adopted?  
(Yes/No/-)

#### 2. "Plan updated since 2015":

Has this plan / strategy / policy been updated since the 2030 Agenda was adopted in September 2015?  
(Yes/No/-)

#### 3. "Goals can be reached in 2030 with current efforts":

Is the current plan/strategy/policy and its implementation likely to enable Denmark to solve the challenge and achieve sustainable development in line with the goal?  
(Yes/No/-)

As an addition this year, all ratings of the achievement of the respective goals, that have not changed since the 2019 SPOTLIGHT report, have been stamped "No change since 2019". This is done when the authors behind the assessment want to highlight a possible lack of political action to achievement of the goal.



See page 10 for a summary of assessments.

## THE WORLD IS FALLING BEHIND – IT IS TIME FOR ACTION

The UN committed to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (the SDGs) in 2015. The goals set out ways to realize the vision of sustainable development by 2030. We now have 10 years left to reach the goals. As peoples and countries on the same earth, we can make the 2020s the decade of action, in which ambitious political goals translate into real sustainable change for people, societies and the globe. The work starts right here. In each country. In Denmark too.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has seized the opportunity. In January of this year, he declared the 2020s a “Decade of Action”.<sup>1</sup>

At Global Focus and the Danish 92 Group, we are constantly engaged in political development in Denmark, in Europe and globally. Together, the two networks’ approximately 90 member organizations have a great deal of knowledge of, and concrete experience with, all the SDGs. As part of a strong Danish, European and global civil society, we work every day for sustainable development, both social, economic, and political, as well as in relation to environment and climate.

Five years after the adoption of the SDGs, we note that there are many good intentions, but far too little action. The brightly colored icons of the 17 goals and the 169 underlying targets call for action, but do not bring it. It is imperative that our efforts are accelerated if the ambitions are to be met. The rhetoric must be translated into concrete results.

### 2020 IN THE SHADOW OF THE CORONA VIRUS

The year 2020 will forever go down in history as the year of the corona virus. We are aware of all the consequences of the pandemic, and note with horror the Danish and global deaths; economic recession; growing number of youth without access to education; failure to (re)negotiate political agreements on climate, biodiversity and the environment and the negative consequences hereof. We have, in other words, suddenly moved significantly further away from reaching the SDGs in Denmark, in Europe and throughout the world.

For the same reason, it has become even more necessary to accelerate the efforts – and sustainable change requires serious and ambitious efforts from all sides, including the Danish political system. To this end, we have prepared a number of recommendations for political action – both within the country’s borders and regarding Denmark’s international engagement. We did this last year too – and like last year and always, we will continue to follow up and point

out opportunities for new initiatives and improvements to the past or existing efforts. We are very willing to make our knowledge and experience available, both for preparation and implementation of political action plans.

### TWO STEPS FORWARD AND ONE STEP BACK

Progress has been made in some areas since we reported in 2019 on Denmark’s accomplishment to meet the SDGs.<sup>2</sup> But in other areas, things are moving too slowly – or even in the wrong direction – without this being attributable to the spread of the Corona virus. We pay special attention to these areas. Examples are:

- No country in the world, including Denmark, is close to being able to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030 with the current efforts.<sup>3</sup>
- One million animal and plant species risk extinction.<sup>4</sup>
- While a third of the world’s food is wasted, 800 million people are malnourished or undernourished.<sup>5</sup>
- The eradication of extreme poverty is going too slowly and efforts for the world’s poorest are declining.<sup>6</sup>
- Climate change is happening faster than feared. The world’s total CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions are steadily increasing.<sup>7</sup>
- Economic, social, and political inequality is increasing. The world’s \$ 2,153 billionaires own more than 4.6 billion people together, with 135 million more poor Africans added over the past 25 years.<sup>8</sup>
- Only three per cent of the world’s people live in countries where their fundamental rights are protected and respected.<sup>9</sup>

### A RICH COUNTRY’S RESPONSIBILITY IN THE PARADIGM OF GROWTH

The overarching idea of the 2030 Agenda is that the goals must be achieved by all countries – and that no one must experience to be left behind in the sustainable development. Unfortunately, global development still leaves billions of people in poverty, and this group is also hit harder by natural disasters and other crises like the Corona pandemic. Many countries do not at all work with the SDGs as a benchmark for progress.

One of the biggest challenges facing the meeting of the goals is the lack of a nuanced view of the link between growth and sustainability, or more precisely: between economic growth (measured as rising GDP) and the overall impact in the environment and society. If the current global, material growth is maintained, the pressure on the earth’s resources, both renewable and nonrenewable, is increased.

# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

With the current economic outlook, life-supporting ecosystems are becoming increasingly congested; inequality will increase year by year; and basic human and labor rights will be put even more under pressure than they are today.

However, due to the Corona pandemic and the economic recession it causes, this issue must be seen in a new light. The question now is whether it is precisely in this difficult situation that the leaders of the world must respond by devising and implementing new, political, and economic initiatives that lifts both people, ecosystems, and the climate? If the Corona crisis brings about one positive thing, it must be the opportunity to invest in the world that we want, as we have agreed to by adopting the 2030 agenda.

We call for debates and political-economic initiatives to shift their focus to a general aim of promoting human quality of life and reducing the burden on nature. A change that is already happening in, for example, Scotland, New Zealand, and Iceland.<sup>10</sup> Economic growth is a means but must not remain an end in itself. A nuanced debate on growth in a global perspective is necessary and requires a distinction between the understanding of growth in rich and highly industrialized countries with a high level of material consumption, such as Denmark, and countries (or regions) that are characterized by poverty and low industrialization and/or inadequate infrastructure.

We need a green change and less consumption in the rich part of the world. And we need green development in the poor parts of the world that avoids the mistakes that the rich did – getting rich – by unilateral focus on economic growth based on increasing consumption of non-renewables and fossil resources and over-exploitation of nature.

Rich countries – including Denmark – do not to a sufficient degree live up to their special responsibility for delivering on the SDGs. Among other things, we lack political action in relation to the climate ambitions and inequality. The links between biodiversity; a healthy environment on earth, including the oceans; and climate change, are not at all considered in political plans or in our everyday lives. Our consumption and production lead to enormous loss of resources. Inequality is rising and we are enacting legislation, which discriminates against minorities and challenges international conventions. An ever-smaller portion of total income goes to the poorest population groups. Money for public goods disappears in tax havens. Just to name a few examples.

## THE FUTURE IS NOW

When we call for action from Denmark, we must remember that the world around us must act too. We must use the international framework as a leverage and an inspiration for Danish initiatives.

*The future is now* the title of the first *Global Sustainable Development Report*<sup>11</sup> on the overall global situation in relation to the SDGs.

It is pointed out in this report that we cannot wait for the crises to come but must try to prevent them from occurring by acting now. Each of us, collectively and scientifically. This is necessary for us to strengthen human well-being; facilitate the transition to sustainable and equitable economies; build sustainable food systems and healthy diets; obtain fossil-free forms of energy and universal access to energy; promote sustainable cities and urban areas; as well as to safeguard global environmental commodities.

Denmark has ample opportunities to contribute to all these areas, if Danish institutions and organizations at the political, business, and civil society levels make a strong effort to create new forms of targeted and effective collaboration across previous administrative, professional, and other boundaries. Denmark must live up to its responsibilities and lift its share of the enormous task. And we need to get up in gear.

## WE FOLLOW THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SHADOWS OF THE CORONA CRISIS AND SUPPORT A NEW ACTION PLAN

The consequences of the Corona crisis require political counter-responsive initiatives. They demand action in the already announced 'decade of action'. Danish politicians and the government must provide the framework for a Danish, sustainable restart, which at the same time makes the SDGs a common, universal and transversal element in all political action, that is transferred to directions and motivation for behavioral changes in all Danes. As a first step, this requires a new Danish action plan for the Sustainable Development Goals, which brings together political initiatives across sectors and across domestic and foreign policy.

This must be a long-term action plan with 2030 as the first milestone. Global Focus and the Danish 92 Group therefore recommend the Danish government to draw up an action plan which:

- includes the preparation of an analysis of Denmark's sustainable challenges as a starting point for new political decisions (a so-called "gap analysis").
- integrates human rights and the "Leave no one behind" principle as central and crucial elements in achieving the SDGs.
- confirm the demand for performing an impact assessment of all new laws' overall effect on the achievement of the SDGs (a so-called "screening mechanism"), as a permanent instrument in the practice of Danish law.
- establish a cross-sectoral advisory body to support the work to achieve the SDGs and advise the government in its work on this.

# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- outlines a plan for financing Denmark's efforts to achieve the SDGs – both at home and abroad. This includes public support; public investment; a sustainable economic tax policy; an increase in Denmark's development assistance; mobilization of private resources and integration of the SDGs as key elements of the Finance Act.

The government's approach to monitoring and follow-up on the achievement of the SDGs should be an important part of an upcoming action plan. To ensure maximum legitimacy, it is important that the government is open, transparent, and inclusive throughout all processes. Global Focus and the Danish 92 Group recommend that the government develop one overall monitoring and follow-up mechanism, enshrined in the Action Plan, which includes:

- using the global indicator set, which Statistics Denmark annually reports on,<sup>12</sup> instead of its own set of goals and indicators.<sup>13</sup> The "Our Goals" project's supplementary national indicators can be integrated in the long term. In addition, the government should integrate process indicators that measure the degree of policy coherence. The OECD has made a qualified proposal of indicators.<sup>14</sup>
- an annual progress report on the achievement of the SDGs and Denmark's international contribution, prepared by an independent body, with a recurring focus on whether Denmark contributes to the promise of "Leaving no one behind" so that the most vulnerable are also included in the monitoring of the achievement of SDGs.
- an annual discussion of Denmark's efforts to achieve the

SDGs among the parties of the parliament, based on the annual progress report.

- preparation of a Voluntary National Review (VNR) every third years in connection with the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) Summit. The preparation of this report should start a year before, with broad involvement of actors across Danish society. Including, among other things, the integration of local civil society reports through e.g. Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR).
- a consultative and inclusive process prior to the government's presentation of the VNR reporting for review at the HLPF meeting, incl. presentation in the Parliament, a national consultation, and a consultation in the UN's European Regional Sustainable Development Forum.
- commitment to ensure that civil society is heard at the HLPF session in connection with the Danish presentation, for example through speaking time and the possibility of follow-up questions.

The civil society will continue to make concrete proposals for political and implementing action. When we have overcome the Corona crisis in Denmark and in the rest of the world, we will still be facing climate change, major environmental problems, growing inequality, human rights violations, and several other, major challenges. It takes broad cooperation to meet these challenges, and we look forward to contributing as much as possible, with our engagement and competences, to strengthen and qualify Denmark's national and international efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

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## SOURCES

- 1 <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2020-01-22/remarks-general-assembly-priorities-for-2020>
- 2 [http://globaltfokus.dk/images/SPOTLIGHT-Rapport\\_Enkelt sider.pdf](http://globaltfokus.dk/images/SPOTLIGHT-Rapport_Enkelt sider.pdf)
- 3 [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24797GSDR\\_report\\_2019.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24797GSDR_report_2019.pdf)
- 4 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf>
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- 9 <https://civicus.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/GlobalReport2019.pdf>
- 10 <https://www.gov.scot/groups/wellbeing-economy-governments-wego/>
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# OVERVIEW: ASSESSMENT OF DENMARK'S WORK WITH THE SDGS

- 1 Political strategy adopted
- 2 Strategy updated after 2015
- 3 The specific SDG can be achieved in 2030 with the current effort

- ✓ Yes
- ✗ No
- Not rated



National achievement



International contribution

SDG		TARGETS IN FOCUS	1	2	3	1	2	3
1	No Poverty	1.3 • 1.A • 1.B	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗ <span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">NO CHANGE SINCE 2019</span>
2	Zero Hunger	2.3	—	—	—	✗	✗	✗
3	Good Health and Well-being	3.3 • 3.4 • 3.7 • 3.8	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗ <span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">NO CHANGE SINCE 2019</span>
4	Quality Education	4.1 - 4.7 • 4.A	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
5	Gender Equality	5.2 • 5.4 • 5.6	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	6.1 • 6.3	<span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">NO CHANGE SINCE 2019</span>	✓	✗	✗	—	—
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	7.1 - 7.3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	8.3 • 8.5 - 8.8	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
9	Industry, innovation and infrastructure	9.1 • 9.2 • 9.5 • 9.A	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
10	Reducing Inequality	10.1 - 10.6	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	11.3 • 11.6	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
12	Responsible Consumption and Production	12.2 • 12.4 • 12.7	<span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">NO CHANGE SINCE 2019</span>	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
13	Climate Action	13.2 • 13.A	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
14	Life Below Water	14.1 • 14.2 • 14.4 • 14.5 • 14.7	<span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">NO CHANGE SINCE 2019</span>	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
15	Life On Land	15.1 • 15.2 • 15.5 • 15.9	<span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">NO CHANGE SINCE 2019</span>	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	16.1 - 16.3 • 16.6 - 16.10	✗	✗	✗	✓	—	✗
17	Partnerships for the Goals	17.1 - 17.4 • 17.14 • 17.17	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

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**POLITICAL RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN EACH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL**


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The authors emphasize the lack of an official poverty line in Denmark and recommend that the Danish government reintroduces the poverty line using data from Statistics Denmark. At the international level, the authors recommend that Denmark continues to focus on reducing poverty in developing countries and ensures that donors work for the “leave no one behind” principle.

**Author:** Global Seniors

**External Contribution:** European Anti-Poverty Network Denmark

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IWGIA highlight that indigenous peoples and their rights to own land and resources are under pressure globally. IWGIA recommends among several things that Denmark internationally advocates for prioritizing rights to own land in the implementation of the SDGs and that Denmark leads the work of ensuring that the private sector respects and strengthens indigenous peoples' rights to own land.

**Author:** IWGIA

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The authors focus on the mental health in Denmark in the light of Covid-19, especially among children and young people, and they recommend the Danish government to launch an action plan for mental health and well-being. At the international level, the authors recommend that Denmark makes health a core priority in its development and humanitarian policy and strategy again and supports the realization of Universal Health Coverage, but without using funds from existing ODA and development projects.

**Authors:** 100% for the Children, the AIDS Foundation, Amnesty International Denmark, Global Seniors, KULU – Women and Development, Save the Children Denmark, the Danish Family Planning Association, Ubumi Prison Initiative

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The authors highlight access to education for refugees in Denmark, The Danish students' Grants and Loans Scheme as well as education in global perspectives. They recommend among other things that the Danish government ensure free education for all and rolls back the financial cuts in the Danish education system. Internationally, the authors recommend that Denmark increase the share of the Danish humanitarian aid that is focusing on education to 10 percent.

**Authors:** The National Union of Students in Denmark, Oxfam IBIS, Save the Children Denmark, Danish Family Planning Association

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The authors focus on the Danish gender equality laws and recommend the Danish government to launch new initiatives to ensure an equal share of housework and parental leave between the parents, while at the same time working for equal pay in Denmark. At the international level, the authors recommend Denmark to integrate discrimination in the development work and politics on other suppression, but also to continue to focus on equality and women's sexual and reproductive rights.

**Authors:** Amnesty International Denmark, IWGIA, KULU – Women and Development, Oxfam IBIS, PlanBørnefonden, Save the Children Denmark, the Danish Family Planning Association

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The Danish Society for Nature Conservation highlight the regulation mechanisms of pesticides in Denmark and consequences for the level of pesticide contamination of drinking water in Denmark. The author recommends the Danish government to introduce a more restrictive regulation of the use of pesticides in Denmark and to prohibit sale of pesticides for private use.

**Author:** The Danish Society for Nature Conservation

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## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



The authors emphasize the use of sustainable energy and express concern about the use of biomass. The authors recommend the Danish government to accelerate the expansion of sustainable energy through wind and sun, while at the same time focusing on supporting investments in energy efficiency. Internationally, the authors recommend Denmark to prioritize "a timely green transition" in poor, but stable countries, while ensuring a human rights-based approach to energy-investments including a focus on the rights of the indigenous peoples.

**Authors:** IWGIA, SustainableEnergy, WWF Denmark

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



The authors highlights the increased necessity of linking growth and sustainability due to the global rise in unemployment rates caused by the Covid-19 crisis, especially among youth. They point out that Denmark is not living up to SDG 8.6 about reducing the number of young people, who are neither in jobs nor in the education system. The authors recommend the Danish government and the social partners to make a cross-sectorial action plan to lower the number of young people outside jobs or the education system. Internationally, the authors recommend that Denmark through its ODA creates framework conditions for well-ordered labour markets and, alongside other countries, sharpens its framework for responsible business conduct, especially when it comes to mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence throughout national and international value chains and corporate liability in severe cases.

**Authors:** Amnesty International Denmark, the Danish United Nation Association, Global Seniors

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Global Seniors focus on the Danish infrastructure and emphasize among other things the lack of change towards sustainable transport in Denmark. The author recommends the Danish government to strengthen the number of charging stations for electric driven cars and to increase the CO2 tax. Internationally, Global Seniors recommends Denmark to change its development strategy, making SDG 9 a priority not just for cooperation in so called growth economies, but also in poor, but stable countries.

**Author:** Global Seniors

## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



The authors underline that we are far from achieving and sustain the promise of an income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average. Moreover, Denmark is not including everyone. Low rates in social benefits lead to more than 60.000 children living in poverty; elderly people are limited in equal participation in society; and ethnic discrimination is increasing. The authors recommend the Danish government to increase the taxation of wealth and to develop an action plan against inequality. Internationally, the authors recommend Denmark to fight against tax havens through country-by-country reporting and a strengthening of EU's "blacklist" tax havens.

**Authors:** Global Seniors, ActionAid Denmark, Oxfam IBIS

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



The authors raise concerns that rent for public housing in the Danish cities is increasing, and so is the level of air pollution while construction waste is not recycled at a satisfying level. The authors recommend the Danish government to make housing policies that enable low-income citizens to live in the cities and to make demands for screening the recycling potential of construction waste prior to demolitions. At the international level, the authors recommend that the Danish development aid is used to ensure political and economic involvement of marginalized groups in the development of safe societies in cities in alignment of the "leave no one behind" principle. The authors recommend increasing focus on local authorities and local grassroots in the most vulnerable societies.

**Authors:** Global Seniors, PlanBørefonden

## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



The authors emphasize that it would take four globes to sustain the world if all countries had an ecological footprint the size of Denmark, and that each Danish citizen every year produces 800 kilogram of trash – 300 kilogram more than the average EU-citizen. The authors recommend the Danish government to reduce Denmark's ecological footprint and to use public investments as a driver of social responsibility and sustainability. Internationally, the authors recommend Denmark to ensure that requirements and guidelines about due diligence apply to both private and public businesses and organizations.

**Authors:** Amnesty International Denmark, The Danish Society for Nature Conservation, WWF Denmark



The authors highlight that the climate was high on the Danish agenda during the 2019 election campaign for both European and the Danish Parliament, and that a new climate law that requires a 70 percent reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions in 2030 compared to 1990 at its core has been adopted. The authors recommend the Danish government to develop five-year specific strategies for different sectors. At the international level, the authors recommend Denmark to contribute with its fair share of international climate funding (approximately five billion Danish Kroner) additional to the Danish development aid.

**Authors:** Amnesty International Denmark, Care Denmark, IWGIA, New Europe, Our Fish, WWF Denmark



The authors raise concerns that Denmark is far from reaching SDG 14 as Danish marine ecosystems suffer from a lack of an ambitious marine strategy; overfishing and destructive fishing. The authors recommend the Danish government to raise its level of ambition and aim to deliver ecosystem based management and maritime governance of 100 percent of the sea, protect at least 30 percent of all ecosystems, with 10 percent dedicated to science, and to stop fishing above maximum sustainable yield. Internationally, the authors recommend the Danish government to work for a high seas treaty that ensures that at least 30 percent of the world's ocean is strictly protected through the biodiversity convention.

**Authors:** The Danish Society for Nature Conservation, Global Aktion, Greenpeace, Living Sea, Our Fish, WWF Denmark



The authors point out that Denmark has one of the smallest Natura-2000 areas in the EU (8,2 percent), and that less than 1 percent of Denmark's area is efficiently protected with nature as the sole purpose. The authors recommend the Danish government to establish national goals for biodiversity, which at a minimum match EU's 2020 biodiversity goals, and to develop and implement a biodiversity strategy and action plan. Internationally, the authors recommend the Danish government to increase the development aid related to the achievement of goal 15.

**Authors:** The Danish Society for Nature Conservation, WWF Denmark



The authors underline that, even though Denmark ranks in the top of global corruption-, freedom- and peace indexes, we still see shrinking civic space in Denmark e.g. through discriminating laws such as a so-called masking ban. The authors recommend the Danish government to repeal the discriminating laws. At the international level, the authors recommend Denmark to show leadership regarding "civic space" and to use its seat in the UN Human Rights Council to work for civic space, while at the same time demand that Danish businesses introduces zero-tolerance policies in relation to violence and abuse against human rights activists.

**Authors:** Amnesty International Denmark, Danish Refugee Council, the Danish United Nation Association, IWGIA, KULU – Women and Development, Oxfam IBIS, Save the Children Denmark

**External Contribution:** RIKO



The authors emphasize the need for the Danish government to increase its focus on policy coherence for development, for example regarding its tax policies, ensuring that they do not have negative spill-over effects on developing countries. The authors recommend the Danish government to raise its level of development aid to 1% of Denmark's GNI in particular in light of Covid-19, as well as work for the establishment of a global debt workout mechanism (under the UN) for all types of debt for all low and middle income countries facing debt distress with a focus on restructuring or canceling debt.

**Authors:** ActionAid Denmark, Oxfam IBIS

# AUTHORS



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## EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTIONS





