

By Flemming Stender, Ambassador of Denmark to Latvia

Denmark for the UN Security Council

Last week, Denmark announced its candidacy for a seat as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2025-26. The announcement was made in New York during the UN general assembly. The election itself will take place in June 2024, but the election campaign starts now. The Security Council has 15 members and five of these are permanent members. Every year, five of the ten elected members are re-elected for a two-year term. In 2025, if elected, it will be 20 years ago since Denmark was last time in the Security Council in 2005-2006. Denmark hopes once more to take on this important responsibility and is ready to serve as a member again.

Latvia also has the ambition to become member and will run for the UN Security Council the following year. It is important that Nordic and Baltic countries are represented in the Security Council to bring Nordic and Baltic values and experiences and influence solutions to global challenges.

The UN Security Council is one of the most significant platforms a small country can become member of. Denmark wants a seat at the table because we take responsibility and seek influence on the handling of conflicts and crises that matter for Europe's security and safety. If elected to the Security Council, we will be a strong voice for small states and continue advocating for reform towards a more accountable, coherent, transparent and effective Security Council. We will also work to enhance the meaningful participation of elected members, non-members and civil society in the work of the Council.

Our candidature is a natural extension of Denmark's strong and longstanding commitment to the UN and international cooperation. As a founding member of the UN, Denmark will bring 80 years of experience to the Security Council. With a solid foothold in international law, and Denmark's value base, we can work to promote peaceful conflict resolution, long-term stabilization, and sustainable peace. Denmark is a champion for UN core values and a reliable partner for peace. We believe in a UN that promotes shared solutions to joint problems, and fights injustice and inequality.

In the campaign to become member of the Security Council, Denmark has launched a logo and a slogan. The campaign logo is the Danish national bird, the swan, as a reference to H.C. Andersen's fairy tales. The wings of the swan are inspired by leaves of the olive branch which encircles the UN logo and is a classical symbol for peace. The campaign slogan is "Equality – Security – Action".

Equality is a reference to Denmark's long-standing commitment to rule-based multilateralism, human rights and international humanitarian law. As a small country, with a strong democratic tradition, Denmark understand the value of international order where all countries – small and big – have an equal voice. It also refers to that fact that Denmark is committed to global development as Denmark is among only a handful of countries living up to the UN target of delivering 0.7 per cent of GNI as development assistance. We have done so consistently for more than 40 years. Denmark has a long tradition of international solidarity committed to global development, equality and sustainability, as we strive for a world in better balance – today and for future generations. In 2021, DK was among the top

5 donors in the world, when measuring the level of humanitarian assistance provided as a percentage of GNI.

Security refers to Denmark as a longstanding UN partner for peace and security committed to preventing conflict and building lasting peace through inclusive approaches with the Women, Peace and Security agenda at the center. Since 1948, Danish troops have served in more than 38 UN-led missions across the world. We are one of the top contributors to the UN Peacebuilding Fund and a member of the UN Peacebuilding Commission for the term 2023-24. Denmark played a key role in establishing the Peacebuilding Commission in 2005 during our last Security Council membership. We remain focused on addressing the root causes of conflict, including how climate change exacerbates drivers of conflict. Russia's unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine has had dire consequences globally. Denmark is striving to ensure effective and coordinated multilateral responses to the global crises on food, energy and finance.

Action refers to Denmark as a champion of UN reform, Denmark takes action to advance an inclusive and accountable UN that delivers on the sustainable development goals (SDGs). At the same time, action marks Denmark's willingness to get to work in order to deliver concrete solutions to the most pressing global challenges. Denmark seeks solutions through partnership, dialogue and mutual respect as the foundation for moving the world forward together. Denmark has a long and solid track-record of working to bridge divides and promote cross-regional partnerships to solve common challenges.

If elected to the Security Council, Denmark can also put focus on thematic issues such as the fight against climate change. Denmark is a global frontrunner in the green transition and a major provider of grant-based climate finance. We have introduced ambitious and legally binding climate goals, committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70 per cent by 2030. Already today, more than 50 per cent of electricity in Denmark is supplied by wind and solar power – a world record. We have decades of experience in the green transition and are working with the major emitting countries to assist them in their green energy transition. Denmark is also committed to strengthening the global mobilisation of climate finance. Climate solidarity will be at the heart of our development assistance in the coming years, as we substantially increase our support for climate adaptation. From 2023, we will dedicate at least 60 per cent of our grant-based climate finance to adaptation measures. We are also strengthening our efforts to mobilise public and private finance from other sources. In total, Denmark expects to continue to deliver at least 1 per cent of the collective target of 100 billion dollars.

You can follow Denmark's campaign for the UN Security Council on www.dk4unsc.dk