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## **General**

In Denmark we just had general election and today we changed government. There is a fear that the new Danish government will not play the same active role in the preparations for the Johannesburg summit as the previous government. In this situation it seems even more urgent to discuss the strategy of a global deal on the summit and to discuss the point of view of the Southern NGOs.

To clarify the strategy of the global deal I have tried to describe how I see the situation and why I find the strategy appropriate.

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## **Do we need a Global Deal?**

There is a serious risk that the World Summit on Sustainable Development will become a failure. Many developing countries have expressed their frustration with the missing will of many Northern countries to live up to promises to increase private investments and ODA and improve trading regimes for developing countries. Northern countries on their side do not want to hear more talking about aid to corrupt dictatorships in the South. It will be a hard challenge to get the parties to the negotiation table at Johannesburg and it will be an even harder challenge to reach any kind of progress during the summit. There is a need to create a win-win situation for major groups of countries so they will take firm steps towards sustainable development.

The official process towards Johannesburg is planned to be an open process where the agenda will be formulated during regional preparation meetings (PrepComs). This process is chosen to meet the demand of the South. Developing countries do not want to be confronted with a new Northern agenda they will be forced to eat.

Many Southern countries demand that Northern countries shall admit that they have caused the exploitation of the South and the deterioration of the environment. And besides admitting this fact they must take the responsibility and accept to pay compensation. This is unacceptable to many Northern countries and they refuse to accept binding international obligations. This deadlock will not solve the global problems with increasing poverty in the South and following migration towards the urban centres and the rich countries of the North. With this deadlock we will never come close to a solution to the social and environmental instability of the world.

Instead of speaking about guilt and moral we must establish a situation from which as many parties as possible can benefit.

The agenda for the Johannesburg Summit will be defined during the spring 2002 and it is important to choose themes that link environment and development and at the same time comprise

possibilities for many parties to benefit. Energy is a good example. Energy is a presumption for economic and social development. Energy supplies the services necessary to satisfy basic need of all people and services necessary to establish a better society we all want. But there is another side of the coin. The use of energy has been a main cause to the huge environmental problem we today face at the local and the global level.

During this century one big challenge will be to secure the supply of energy services. Many developing countries are today only using a fraction of the energy used in the North and they will not accept that northern countries use the main part of the last oil. Can we provide the necessary services to all in North and South based on renewable sources and how will we share the remains of the fossil fuels? If we have to keep below ecological limits for emission of CO<sub>2</sub> we can only use 225 billion tons of carbon and with the present consumption we have reached the limits by 2050. This problem has to be addressed during the Johannesburg summit and Northern countries will have to decide how to phase out fossil fuels within a time limit that will give the Southern countries a longer transfer period. The INFORSE Vision 2050 argues that we can provide the energy services to all in the North and the South in 2050 without using fossil fuels or nuclear power. Can we make people believe in that?

The social instability of the world and the extreme consequences that we have seen in conflicts all over the world can only be avoided through economic and social development in the South. Northern countries must take the southern agenda seriously and support economic and social development. The developing countries on their side must accept the responsibility that this development has to be environmentally sustainable to avoid that social instability is replaced by environmental disasters. The Northern countries have the financial resources, the know-how and the technology to take the first serious steps towards a sustainable use of energy. To be reliable partner during the summit they must take these steps before the summit and the ratification of the Kyoto-protocol will be a first step.

Even before the Rio conference in 1992 developing countries had access to know-how and technology high on their agenda. Energy represents an area with know-how and technology that can create economic development without harming the environment. Energy is an area where we can create a win-win situation. Through increasing reliance on renewable energy, improved energy efficiency and energy savings **Northern countries** can improve their security of supply of energy resources; they can sustain their economic and social welfare and improve the local and global environment. The new technology can provide new growth in **the developing countries**. The success with the renewable energy industry in several Northern countries creates a strong argument for linking environmental and economic development, and most renewable energy technologies can be developed and produced in the developing countries.

There seems to be several strong arguments for the strategy of the Global Deal and energy is an excellent example of a central theme that links environment and economic and social development and creates good opportunities for countries in the North and the South.